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**Bryan Cranston**  
See p.90

# HIGH TIMES

Sept 4/10

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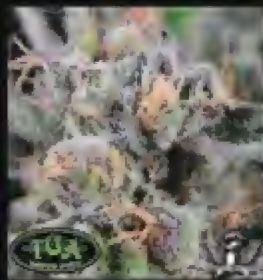
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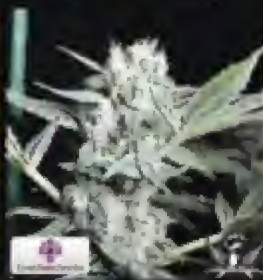
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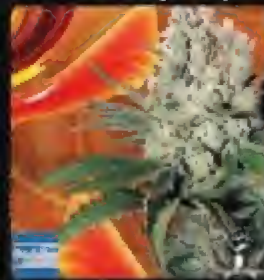
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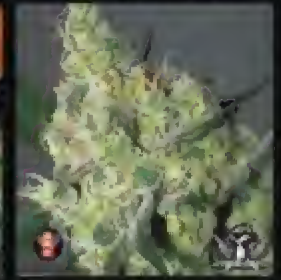
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# HIGH TIMES SEPTEMBER



*A location deep in the swamp may seem spooky and intimidating at first, but once it's dialed in for maximum production, it can theoretically supply the grower with years and years of bountiful harvests.*

*—Buds on the Bayou, Page 64*

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## **45 14th Annual S.T.A.S.H. Awards**

The *High Times* Cultivation Department reveals the best pot-growing products available for indoor and outdoor weed farmers.

## **58 Friends in High Places**

For the second year, Denver hosted the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup for a weekend full of commerce, camaraderie, debate and high spirits.

## **64 Buds on the Bayou**

Our cultivation correspondent explains how to take outdoor guerrilla growing to the extreme by planting pot in swampy areas where most would fear to tread. *Story & photos by Vinnie Kaz*

## **74 Death & Art in Culiacán**

As Mexico's casualty figures in their War on Drugs reaches 50,000, brutal images and artifacts are being transformed into art. *By Teun Voeten*

## **82 Tissue-Culture Propagation**

These principles and practices will allow home growers to easily propagate and trade their highly prized genetics. *By Greg Green*

## **90 High Times Interview with Bryan Cranston**

The star of the groundbreaking series *Breaking Bad* discusses the requirements necessary to play a high-school chemistry teacher turned meth kingpin. *By Dan Skye*

# Give a man a bud, he smokes for a day. Teach a man to grow, he smokes for life...



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# HIGH TIMES DIGITAL



## TUSCARORA: People of the Hemp

They were part of the Iroquois Confederacy, an alliance of Northeastern Indian tribes, and fought alongside George Washington in the Revolutionary War. They were also known as the "People of the Hemp," the literal translation of "Tuscarora." The tribe now occupies a small reservation near Niagara Falls. Many of the tribal clans have died off, but elders still venerate the cannabis plant. Read this exclusive *High Times* feature online now at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com).



### POT POLL



Strawberry Cough

"Which strain would you most like to smoke?"

Strawberry Cough.....	26.7%
Sour Diesel.....	15.9%
Purple Kush.....	13.3%
Jack Herer.....	12.5%
OG Kush.....	11.5%
The Purps.....	11%
Chem Dog.....	9.2%

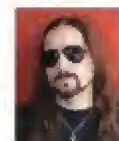
This poll received over 21,000 responses. Strawberry Cough is a fine strain, but the HT staff was amazed that of the seven choices, powerful OG Kush and Chem Dog finished fifth and last respectively. Maybe readers don't have access to the top rock 'em/sock 'em strains on the stoner scene. Whatever the case, it looks like the Kush craze may be coming to an end. Vote in our current poll. Go to [hightimes.com/polls](http://hightimes.com/polls).

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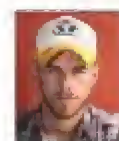
**DANNY DANKO**  
@DannyDanko  
Danny's new monthly online column "Pot

Prisoner Pen Pals" profiles peaceful pot prisoners. We urge readers to send letters of support.



**BOBBY BLACK**  
@BobbyBlack  
Looking for hot pot news? Tune in to "The Week

in Weed," Bobby's new video newscast that focuses on top stoner stories.



**TYLER STEWART**  
@TylerHT  
Our newcomer brings nerd

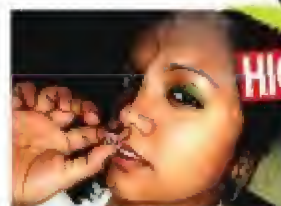
rage and high praise to the latest video games in his review column "Tokens."

### HIGH ONLINE

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## The Real Mexican Apocalypse of 2012

**T**he first article I ever read by Teun Voeten, "A Legacy of Blood" (May '98 HT), was an exposé on election-year violence in Colombia between government forces and their Marxist adversaries, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In that piece, Voeten takes a bus to the heart of FARC country and allows himself to get kidnapped by the rebels. Now *this* man is a journalist, I remember thinking to myself.



Voeten on assignment in Mexico, hiding his face from the narcos.

Teun Voeten has reported from all the major global hot spots of the past 20 years including Colombia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea and Libya. He is now in Mexico covering the violence that country is experiencing as the cartels battle to monopolize the perpetual flow of heroin, coke, meth and marijuana that feeds America's insatiable appetite

for dope. In fact, Voeten is currently working toward a PhD in anthropology, using the Mexican drug war as the central theme of his thesis, and will be releasing a photo book called, *Narco Estado: Drug Violence in Mexico*.

"I think it is a very important story," he told me. "It is not just a gang war, it is a nightmarish futuristic scenario where ruthless ultra-capitalist organizations have taken over territory and power from a weak and corrupt central government and rule with impunity and kill with sadistic pleasure."

"Death & Art in Culiacán" (page 74) tells of how artists and photojournalists in Sinaloa cartel country have to walk a tightrope between telling their stories and avoiding the wrath of those who kill for a living. When I asked Voeten if there is any way to stop this violence, he said, "Stricter gun laws on the US side of the border would help. Legalization is complicated, and not a solution for dangerous substances such as crack and crystal meth. Legalization of marijuana would take away 30 percent of the profits of the cartels, so that would also weaken the cartels. A worldwide consumer boycott of cocaine would also be a step in the right direction."

So, aside from the obvious health benefits involved, a person who grows their own pot and avoids the varied substances that come north across the border is actually, in their own small way, doing their part to shrink the profit motives that are the root of the violence on the other side. Just something to think about while you enjoy our September issue.

Sincerely,

*Chris Simunek*  
Editor-In-Chief

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**Pot is Good for Us!**

Why is no one jumping all over the 20-year study that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* did on marijuana? In case you didn't hear, JAMA studied 5,000 men and women over a 20 year period and found that one joint a day is very healthy for your lungs. The results are probably the best we could have ever asked for, and I think as the most recognized marijuana information magazine in the world you should jump all over this.

*Medicinal marijuana patient  
from Ontario, Canada*

**Obama or Bust**

What is our fearless leader really thinking?! Shortly after being elected, President Barack Obama appeared to be our golden boy for the cannabis movement after vowing to protect state medical marijuana laws, including 17 states across the country. With the recent raid activity on medical marijuana providers (more than Bush), one can only question the true honesty and thinking behind this highly elected official. Just recently in a huge election year, Obama stands up supporting gay marriage in America, while bashing legal pot providers in the same week. So he's okay with the age old gay rights movement, but is going to fight one last time against good 'ol Mary Jane? Doesn't Obama realize that the vast majority of the gay community worldwide actually loves pot, and more than 70 percent of America is in favor of legalization? If you want to know the truth, 90 percent of the Republicans in Congress recently voted against states allowing medical marijuana, once again proving their affiliation to the "Big Pharma Phraternity", making trillions, killing millions. With current research showing that cannabis might help treat cancer, one can only wonder why Obama doesn't welcome cannabis rights in the same light as gay rights.

Stay high!

*Ann S.*

**From the "Founder" of 420**

I started 420 back in '82 at a job I was on. Well, 4:30 was punch out time and 4:20 was clean up your area time. I had nothing to clean up, my spot was always clean, so I went to the break room to smoke a cigarette. On my first day there, there was a "No Smoking in the Break Room" sign on the door, so I had to go outside to smoke. No one hardly ever went out to smoke til 4:30 and the



**With current research showing that cannabis might help treat cancer, one can only wonder why Obama doesn't welcome cannabis rights in the same light as gay rights.**

next day I didn't have cigarettes, but I did have a few joints in my pocket, so I smoked those instead. This was before weed was hip to everybody. Well, a few people ended up joining me and it became a habit every day at work at 4:20 to celebrate the end of the day, and when I went to parties I would let them know that 4:20 was a time to celebrate people getting off work for the day. So while it took awhile for the world to catch on, now 420 is worldwide. And that's how it all got started. Just to set the story straight.

*D.J.*

**Pot Tourism Under Fire**

There's nothing like going to Amsterdam, walking around, eating, smoking and being part of something real. If they change the smoking laws it will be like being at Disneyland with all the rides closed. I won't go back, and why should I? No tourists equals no fun. Amsterdam will still attract the two-day seniors or tour groups, but ultimately what good will it do when all the restaurants have to raise their prices or shut down? I feel

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for the coffeeshop owners—they are the main reason why people have been coming back and spending money.

I'm out. Bye-bye Amsterdam! I hope you can stay afloat with no tourism in the city. It sure is going to be an empty place or six feet under with no taxes being collected all because of no pot. Bad move! Holland better wake up and realize it's not going to be easy on a lot of people with their businesses and hotels empty with no tourists.

*City of Love*

The Mayor of Amsterdam doesn't want the new tax law and neither does half the city of Amsterdam. Nothing like watching your property value go down the drain and empty restaurants, bars, shops, taxis and tourist attractions and thousands of buildings for sale that used to be hotels. It's a bad move for us tourists, but it will probably be worse for them. They can't even pay for all the city workers and services and they want to cut this so-called "drug tourism"

out? This will just add to their unemployment problems. I think the judge that made this decision must be very wealthy and doesn't care about anyone else.

Nothing like going back to Amsterdam where you have to worry about getting hustled by the drug dealer on the corner or getting ripped off. The best country in the world is turning into the weed police. It's time to go someplace where the government isn't so stupid, but relaxed and tolerant about a little grass. They said Brighton is pushing to be the next coffeeshop destination, and even though the UK is expensive—I would still plan a trip there.

*D.R.*

**Sweden Calling**

I love reading about those big, 1,000-watt grows you show every month, but I miss seeing small, micro grows. Micro or small-scale grows just for personal use are also a big part of the CB scene.

*Saffran*



Kelly Gordon

Tyler Campbell

Marissa Heiniger  
girlsclubhawaii

GORKIN CORMICAN

Alexander Bruszt

Clazina Van Andel

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Travis Beckmann

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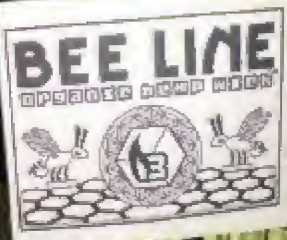
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**Contact  
High**

**MILE HIGH MOMENT** Denver's cannabis community turned out in record numbers for this year's 4/20 rally in Civic Center Park. Among the event's many performers and speakers was our own senior editor Bobby Black, who called on Coloradans to vote for legalization this November. Read more about the rally on page 110. *Photo by Kim Sidwell*





### Contact High

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH Nature's oldest medicine meets nature's longest living species at the Continental Divide. An assortment of Colorado's finest strains is on display at 12,000 feet near the town of Alma. In the background stands a bristlecone pine tree, which reaches an age far greater than any other organism known—close to 5,000 years. *Photo by Dan Skye*



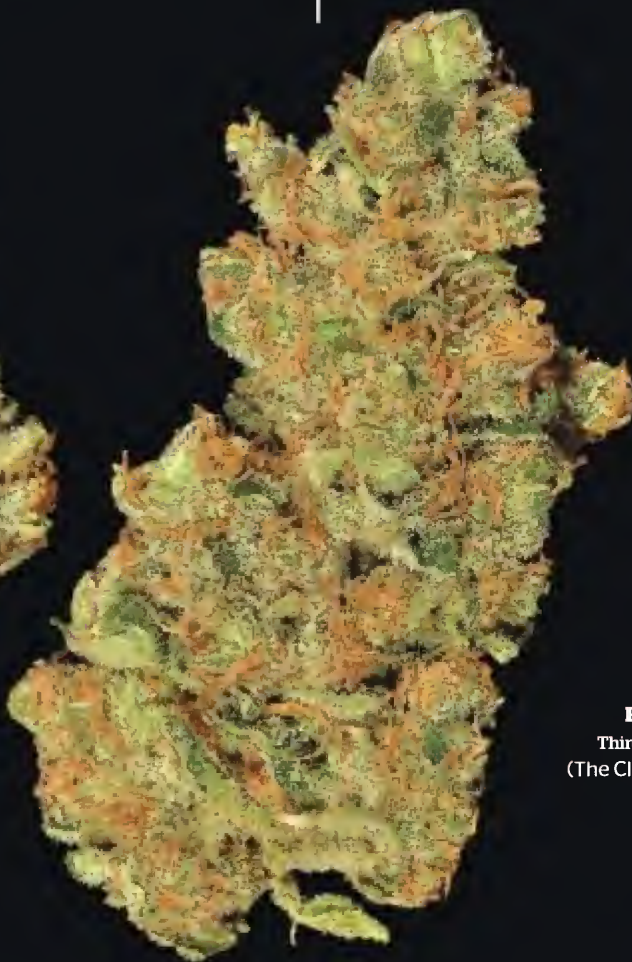
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First Place *Indica*  
(Pink House Blooms)



**RED HEADED STRANGER**

Second Place *Sativa*  
(Natural Remedies)



**RASKAL OG**  
Third Place Hybrid  
(The Clinic on Holly)



**CATARACT KUSH**  
Third Place *Indica*  
(River Rock North)



**SUPER SILVER HAZE**  
Patients' Choice Tie  
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**SKUNKBERRY**  
First Place Hybrid  
(Green Man Cannabis THC)





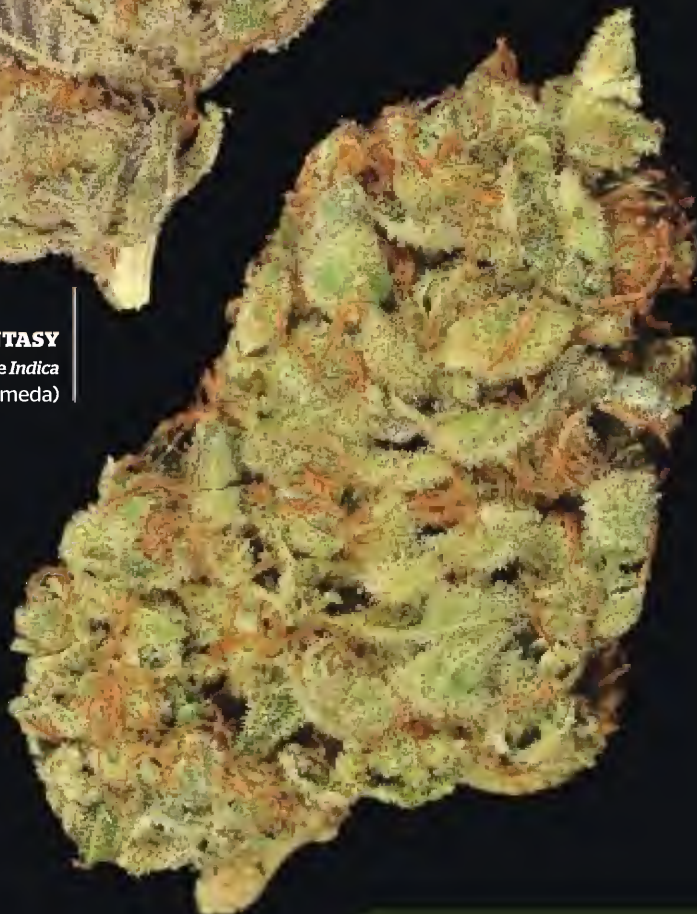
**KURPLE FANTASY**  
Second Place *Indica*  
(Wellness Alameda)



**JACK HERER**  
Third Place *Sativa*  
(Medicine Man Denver)



**KOSHER KUSH**  
Patients' Choice Tie  
(The Clinic on Holly)



**STARDOG GUAVA**  
First Place *Sativa*  
(The Clinic on Holly)



**JACK FLASH**  
Second Place *Hybrid*  
(Fresh Baked Boulder)

September 2012 *High Times*

**MILE HIGH WINNERS** Once again, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup demonstrates that despite the ramped up federal campaign against marijuana, advances in cultivation continue unabated. In fact, the top strains at our Colorado event were every bit equal to the vaunted strains of California, if not superior. Read all about them in "Friends in High Places" (page 58). *Photos by Ry Pritchard*

**Contact  
High**



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WITH THE TEMP STRIP TOUCHING YER SKIN

WAIT TILL THE TEMPERATURE STRIP...  
READS 96-100 DEGREES...

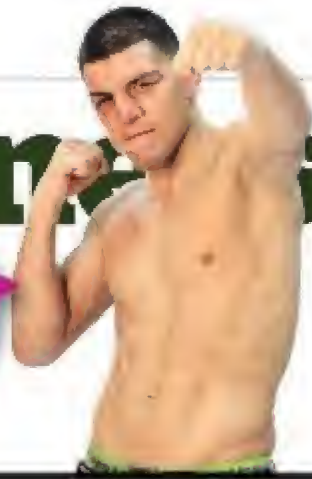
OPEN THE SAFETY VALVE...  
AND YER GOOD...  
TO GO!

WHEN IT'S TIME TO PEE...  
JUST SQUEEZE THE TIP OF THE DONG...  
AND DELIVER YOUR SAMPLE!  
HEY!

**THIS EPISODE: "SHOW & TELL!"**

# Highwitness News

UFC star Nick Diaz takes a massive hit for testing THC-positive.



## Sports

### The NFL on Grass

Some top rookies are All-Star stoners p.23



## Food

### Doubly Baked Potatoes

Go south of the border and soar sky-high p.38



Thousands of studies have already proven the benefits of cannabis.



## Science Says: Legalize!

But how much does cannabis research matter if the federal government isn't listening? *By Paul Armentano*

**During the past** decade, largely due to the discovery of the endogenous cannabinoid system, there has been an unprecedented explosion in cannabis research—and, consequently, a seismic shift in our understanding of the relative safety and therapeutic efficacy of the cannabis plant.

Despite the US government's almost century-long prohibition, cannabis remains one of the most thoroughly investigated therapeutic substances in history. There are more than 20,000 published studies and reviews in the scientific literature pertaining to the cannabis plant or its constituents, nearly one-third of which were published within the

past three years. According to a keyword search on PubMed Central, the US government's repository for peer-reviewed scientific research, that total includes more than 2,700 separate papers published in 2009, another 1,950 papers published in 2010 and 2,550 in 2011.

We possess a greater understanding of the cannabis plant, its chemical components and the ways in which those components interact with living organisms than we do for most other therapeutic substances that humans put into their bodies. Why? Because cannabis has been so rigorously studied—particularly at the preclinical level. Furthermore, we

have substantial empirical data gathered from several thousand *years* of human experience.

Ironically, despite the decades of federal obstinacy in this area, that also includes data from many FDA-approved, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trials—the so-called gold standard of clinical research. At various California universities, investigators have recently conducted more than a half-dozen trials involving more than 200 subjects. The results of this research include the following: that inhaled cannabis can be a “first-line” defense in the treatment of chronic neuropathy; that cannabis acts synergistically with opiate-based medications, likely leading to a reduction in the required doses of conventional pharmaceuticals; and that cannabis “provides benefits beyond currently prescribed treatments” for patients with multiple sclerosis.

On the international scene, a recent Canadian trial concluded that a single inhalation of herbal cannabis repeated three times daily significantly improved sleep and reduced suffering in patients experiencing chronic pain. A 2011 observational study from Israel found that subjects with Crohn's disease required far fewer hospitalizations and surgeries on average in the years immediately following their therapeutic use of cannabis than in the years prior to it. And a recent Spanish study found that cannabis use was associated with reduced pain and stiffness—as well as an increased feeling of well-being—in patients with fibromyalgia.

Yet in the context of US policy, this research may as well have never happened, since federal officials steadfastly refuse to reschedule cannabis under the Controlled Substances Act or amend public policy in a manner consistent with the science. In fact, in July of 2011, the Obama administration summarily dismissed a petition to reconsider the federal government's ridiculous classification of cannabis as a dangerous and

« highly addictive substance with no medical use whatsoever, disingenuously arguing that “there are no adequate and well-controlled studies proving [its] efficacy.”

Federal policymakers have also shown themselves determined to ignore the results of the various gold-standard trials conducted in conjunction with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the University of California’s Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research and even the Drug Enforcement Administration. This federal silence is telling, since it reinforces the (by now obvious) fact that the United States continues to uphold a public policy that is neither based on nor guided by science.

In fact, just the opposite is true: This policy is actively *hostile* toward science. And despite President Barack Obama’s well-publicized memo in 2009 to the heads of all executive branch agencies—which boldly proclaimed in its opening sentence: “Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my Administration on a wide range of issues, including improvement of public health”—the reality is that the federal government’s approach to cannabis won’t be changing anytime soon. In fact, the most recent National Drug Control Strategy report acknowledged that there

## The problem is that our existing public policy remains 180 degrees removed from where the science now tells us it should be.



are currently only 14 researchers in the entire US who are legally permitted to work with whole-plant cannabis in clinical trial settings.

So the question for reformers is this: If 20,000-plus peer-reviewed studies of the cannabis plant, coupled with thousands of years of empirical observations, haven’t sufficiently influenced public

policy in the US, why would another one or two studies—or two dozen or even 200—finally do it? In short, what good is more scientific research if nobody in the federal government is willing to acknowledge the results?

The problem facing advocates today isn’t that we lack the objective scientific evidence needed to craft a rational public policy on cannabis and its many potential health benefits. The problem instead is that our existing public policy remains 180 degrees removed from where the science now tells us it should be.

So how do we change that? For starters, by educating public-policy leaders on the existing research—which overwhelmingly confirms that cannabis is sufficiently safe and effective—and by rejecting the notion that we as a society “just don’t know enough” about its health effects.

Because we already know plenty. And, most of all, we know there is no valid scientific reason to justify the continued targeting, prosecution and incarceration of Americans who consume cannabis responsibly. ✨

### HIGH FIVE

## Stoner Stadiums

*If you like buds and baseball, try these pot-friendly parks.*



### AT&T Park

*San Francisco Giants*  
Star pitcher Tim Lincecum is a stoner who got busted. Maybe he smokes less now, but not Giants fans. Remember in 2010, when Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton complained about the stench of pot coming from the bleachers? That’s all you need to know. But once you’re good and stoned, don’t get too entranced by the park’s amazing views of San Francisco Bay or you’ll miss out on the game.



### Wrigley Field

*Chicago Cubs*  
The Cubs are perennial losers, but Wrigley is high in our standings. Bleachers are ideal for smoking, and it’s a great place to get a tan. There are tons of restaurants and bars in Wrigleyville for post-game munching and drinking. Left- and right-field stands may have primitive, obstructionist posts that hinder your view of the field, but they’re perfect for shielding your toking from ballpark security.



### Coors Field

*Colorado Rockies*  
There’s a great party scene going on in the historic LoDo district of Denver, just blocks away, prior to each game. Once inside the stadium, you can hit up the smoking section behind left field. (Unfortunately, smoking medical marijuana is strictly verboten, so be discreet.) The super-cheap center-field bleachers (a.k.a. “the Rockpile”) are great for getting high. First base/right field seats offer a superior view of the Rocky Mountains.



### Citizens Bank Park

*Philadelphia Phillies*  
This park just edges out Baltimore’s Camden Yards for our East Coast representation. Citizens Bank Park offers three different smoking sections where tokers can blend in; also recommended are the areas around the restrooms, where you can lean over the nearby ledges and smoke away while pretending to take in a view of the Philly skyline. You’re not likely to be bothered by security, but stay vigilant anyway.



### O.co Coliseum

*Oakland Athletics*  
This once decent baseball stadium was wrecked by Al Davis’s NFL Raiders reconstructions, but it’s another great place for stoners because it’s so private. After all, these are the Oakland A’s (as in: Who cares?). Enjoy a whole row to yourself. Or try a whole section to yourself! It’s a “smoke-free” facility, but that’s never stopped anyone who wanted to get high. O.co offers some of the best stadium grub in baseball for your munchies.

some secrets are worth sharing.



ask for sasquatch at your local smoke shop.

## HIGH DRAFT PICKS

Stanford's Andrew Luck was the No. 1 pick in this year's NFL draft, but the *highest* selection was offensive tackle Mike Adams of Ohio State: The Pittsburgh Steelers grabbed him in the second round. Though considered the most talented OT in the draft, Adams saw his value slip after he tested positive for pot at the NFL's annual scouting combine for prospective pros.

Also getting popped for pot at the combine was standout Virginia Tech cornerback Jayron Hosley, taken in the third round by the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. Obviously, there was no concern that Hosley's past pot use would interfere with the Giants' winning chemistry.

Star linebacker Von-taze Burfict of Arizona State wasn't even drafted following a positive drug test and his admission to NFL general managers that he used to get stoned. After the draft, he signed as a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals. Burfict's teammate Jamaar Jarrett also tested positive for pot and went undrafted, but he was able to sign with the rebuilding St. Louis Rams.

Ironically, positive drug tests actually benefit teams: Players drafted in later rounds get paid lower salaries, so devaluing a player because of pot use makes good financial sense to the industry.



Wiz gets the biz—twice!

## DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR WIZ

Hip-hop chart-topper Wiz Khalifa faces court dates in two different states following a pair of pot busts in just under 14 days while on tour this spring. The 24-year-old rapper was first narc'd in a Nashville hotel after cops claimed to find cannabis in his room while responding to complaints from guests about the reek of chronic. (Police also allege that Khalifa threw a roach out the window as they entered.) Barely two weeks later, Wiz was arrested again in Winston-Salem, NC, after cops smelled pot smoke emanating from his tour bus while they were patrolling the parking lot of the concert venue. In both cases, Wiz was cited for possession and released. He was previously arrested in 2010 at East Carolina University during his "Waken Baken" tour.



## HIGH ANXIETY IN HOLLAND

In January, prior to the collapse of the Netherlands' rightward-leaning Liberal-Christian Democrat coalition government, Dutch lawmakers imposed a new law banning foreigners from buying pot in coffeeshops. Plans for enforcement were slated to take effect next year in the country's southern provinces. But in May, three of those provinces imposed the ban early. In addition, the law requires shops to sell medical marijuana only to registered members.

Protesters took to the streets, and the mayor of Maastricht was presented with a petition signed by approximately 300 coffeeshop owners and other businessmen demanding an end to the ban on foreign tourists. Opponents of the law argue that it will revive the black market for pot, but the mayor dismisses such concerns, claiming that the new rules won't be used for anything other than checking out a coffeeshop's customers—which, of course, doesn't sit well with Dutch pot smokers, who prefer to toke in anonymity.



## EAT IT RAW!

"Eat a bud a day—it'll keep the strokes away." So says retired California-based heart surgeon and current medical marijuana physician Dr. Dave Allen. Sure, you've gobbled your fair share of pot brownies and ganja goo-balls, but have you ever considered eating pot raw? You should, says Dr. Allen. He recommends eating uncooked cannabis instead of popping aspirin daily in order to keep strokes and heart attacks at bay. "No other medicine made by man can help in this manner," he insists. At the same time, Allen stresses that it must be raw, dried bud that's consumed—not cooked edibles.

A successful study sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services showed that the incidence of strokes in lab rats was reduced by 50 percent after they were administered cannabinoids (which included THC). But eating raw pot for heart health has yet to be clinically tested on humans.



# GOD SAVE THE WEED

Cannabis culture may not have achieved the level of ubiquity in the UK that it has in the US, but pot's profile is on the rise in jolly olde England. Consider the increasing number of marijuana gardens and growrooms that were busted in 2011—an average of more than 20 a day. The Association of Chief Police Officers has reported 7,865 farms being busted from 2011 to 2012 (thus far), compared to 6,866 for all of 2009-2010. In the past two years, authorities have seized approximately 1.1 million pot plants total, with an estimated street value of more than £207 million (well over \$300 million American).



Nick Diaz is interviewed by Joe Rogan.

# DIAZ GETS WALLOPED

The slogan for the Ultimate Fighting Championship is "As Real As it Gets." Welterweight Nick Diaz probably would agree because he's an ultimately fucked competitor. Following his welterweight title loss last February, Diaz tested positive for pot, which is against UFC regulations. In May, a hearing was held to determine penalties. Talk about ultimate justice! Diaz, who resides in California, is a legal medical marijuana patient who uses cannabis to treat his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. But he was fined 30 percent of his purse from the fight, a total of \$79,500. Plus, he was banned from fighting in the UFC until February. (In 2007, Diaz also lost his license for six months and was fined \$3,000 after testing positive for marijuana following a win.)

The UFC also deals in ultimate hypocrisy. Comedian Joe Rogan is one of the UFC's top TV commentators. Rogan is a vocal supporter of legal pot who candidly writes on his blog: "I like to smoke pot and work out. To the ill informed or the uninitiated in the magical ways of the sacred plant, this can seem like a very contradictory practice. In fact though, that notion could not be further from the truth."

# Pot & Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common and second most deadly form of cancer among men. In fact, one out of every six males will get prostate cancer. With those odds, guys need all the help they can get, which includes the miracle of medical marijuana.

The *Indian Journal of Urology* published the assessment of two investigators from Venezuela and the United States who urge clinical trials be conducted to investigate the use of pot for prostate cancer treatment. Preliminary research indicates that cannabis has analgesic benefits, while decreasing cancer cell viability. If these properties prove to exist, cannabis would especially benefit patients with bone metastatic prostate cancer while simultaneously providing an alternative to addictive pain-relieving narcotics such as opioids.



# HIGH OFFICE

Prior to his election, President Obama freely admitted to smoking pot in his younger days. Now, highly regarded biographer David Maraniss reveals new details of his highness in *Barack Obama: The Story*. According to friends: "When a joint was making the rounds, he often elbowed his way in, out of turn, shouted 'Intercepted!' and took an extra hit."

Obama was also known for starting a trend called "TA," short for "total absorption." "When you were with Barry and his pals, if you exhaled ... instead of absorbing it fully into your lungs, you were assessed a penalty and your turn was skipped the next time the joint came around."

Now that's a serious stoner—and he became Commander in Chief! So explain it for us one more time, Mr. President. Why exactly is pot illegal?

# PURE POT PILL



For pot patients who can't smoke or eat edibles and have no interest in legal, but synthetic and erratic Marinol, there's a new alternative—Idrasil, the all-natural cannabis pill. Based on proprietary technology, Idrasil promises a pure and effective extraction of pot's healing chemical compounds known as cannabinoids (sans oil or other additives) in a

consistently measured dose. The new medicine derives its name from "yggdrasil"—the mythological tree that held aloft the nine worlds of Norse folklore. Idrasil was developed by Orange County "nutraceutical" company C3 Patients Association and will be primarily marketed to hospice/palliative care patients as an alternative to opiate-based medication.

# Flavor to Savor

High-end Hollywood chefs serve up a pot-infused banquet.



Monkfish, congee, cannabis epazote pesto, nettles, shiso and carrot make up this dish.

When it comes time to whip up marijuana-infused food, most home cooks choose to cover up the taste of their sacred, secret ingredient with heavy doses of either chocolate or peanut butter as part of some sugary, fat-laden stoner treats.

Not that there's anything wrong with that—but lately, adventurous pot-loving foodies and even professional restaurateurs have begun to embrace (rather than mask) the herb's distinct flavor, which French chef Laurent Quenioux describes as “incredible, very citrusy... sexy and sweet. If it was legal, I would serve it in my restaurant!”

Chef Quenioux first won mainstream culinary acclaim for his Bistro LQ in Los Angeles, and he's since gone on

to collaborate with chef Thi Tran (who was born in Vietnam to Chinese parents but raised in Dallas, TX) in the trendsetting Starry Kitchen, which started out

**“If it (cannabis) was legal, I would serve it in my restaurant!”  
—Chef Laurent Quenioux**

as an “underground” restaurant run out of an apartment before going legit. More recently, these two head chefs joined forces to host a number of exclusive (as in: invite-only) themed dinners and temporary “pop-up” restaurants, including the first in a planned series of marijuana-centric banquets.

Quenioux and Tran's inaugural “weed dinner” was an eight-course feast

incorporating cannabis as the featured ingredient. Ganja-infused cocktails from Daniel K. Nelson, a mixologist from the Writer's Room in LA, were also served. The Cho Sun One

was a crowd favorite—a drink tinged with cannabis-infused sesame-seed oil, lending a pungent smell to the blending of Korean pear and American moonshine. Nelson called the dinner “a fun way to flex your

muscles and do something different.”

Culinary creativity was on display from start to finish. The feast relied upon bright, fresh and fruity acidic flavors to balance the rich, salty, savory elements in each dish. The chefs were also careful to keep the overall potency of the meal within bounds by using the cannabis sparingly, and in ways that complemented the other ingredients. Still, the amount of ganja in each course built to a kind of orchestral crescendo, starting with small hints of herbal flavor that grew to a substantially stony finish.

Highlights included a pot-infused lobster “jus” paired with spot prawns and a silky, buttery monkfish seared in cannabis-coconut oil on top of congee and cannabis epazote. Dessert brought on the most unique preparation: panna cotta with rhubarb gel, served with a blood-orange sorbet and “cannabis soil,” a fluffy powder arrayed in a neat little pile. Just a tiny taste of the “soil” revealed a powerful punch of ganja flavor.

By night's end, it was clear that, as marijuana continues to move into the mainstream, more and more chefs will experiment with bold new ways of using it as an ingredient. And with advances in the study of terpenes, we'll soon learn more about pairing specific strains of cannabis with different foods—leading to more divine dishes like the Haze-infused Tom Yum Ganja featured in *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook*.

Elise McDonough



### Inedible Garnish

Those with sensitive stomachs will want to avoid munching on raw cannabis leaves, since there are tiny, irritating hairs on the surface. Use leaves as a garnish, not throughout an entire salad.



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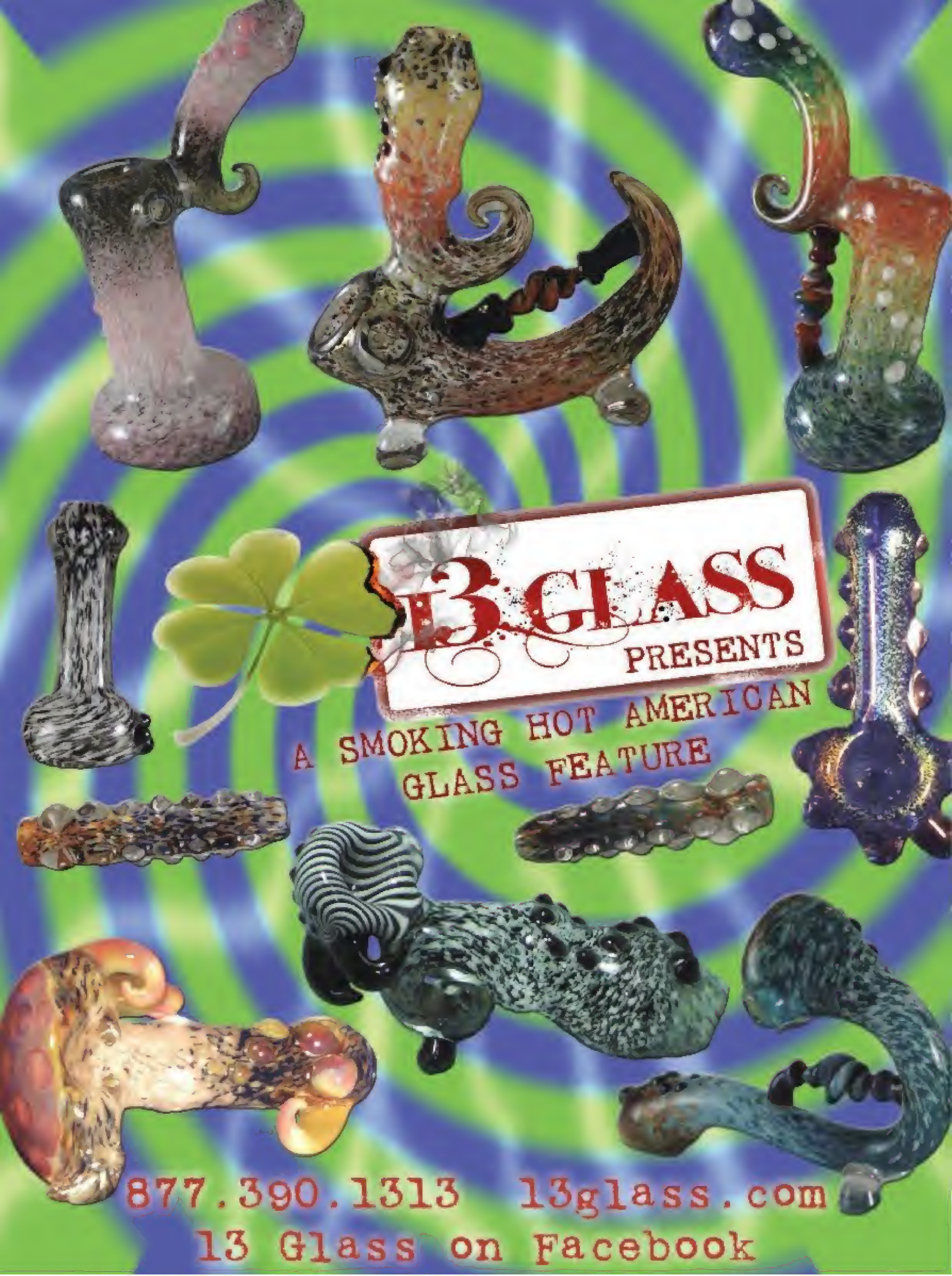
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**\* DECA DOSE \***

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These guys are about to put a serious hurt on this pile of herb.

# Budstep

Cypress Hill and Rusko join forces to reinvent the beat. *By Justin Hampton*

**The style is** sleek and alpha-modern in the seating area of *breal.tv*, the downtown Los Angeles studio space where the programs for B-Real's webisode production arm are filmed. A flat-screen TV plays back a basketball game while a recessed display case in the wall shows off Roor and Illadelph designer bongs like trophies. Just a few moments ago, B and Sen Dog, decked out in leather and gray denim, cruised in along with five members from their motorcycle club, all of them buddies with Cypress Hill since high school; in contrast, their latest partner in crime, dubstep producer Chris "Rusko" Mercer, sporting a bedhead

mul-hawk and quarter-to-5-o'clock shadow, drove a compact to the spot.

Now they're all being treated to a hero's welcome, *High Times* style: A Scar-face-sized hillock of Kosher Kush lies piled on the table, flanked by two custom-made, personalized Sheldon Black bongs for Cypress Hill and Rusko, with frosted visuals culled from each artist's career emblazoned on their respective pieces. Rusko has just tweeted a photo of his to the world, while B-Real starts rolling up the first of many spliffs. Eventually, it dawns on everyone assembled that an interview needs to be done, and that questions about bass

music and the partnership Rusko and Cypress are forging between dubstep and hip-hop have yet to be answered. After all, intoxicated minds wanna know.

"Don't mind us—we're just humoring ourselves," B says sheepishly. "We haven't seen each other since the Smoke-out ..."

"And now we're smoked out!" Rusko adds.

"... So what did you expect?" B concludes with a laugh.

Prior to the online release of the inaugural Cypress x Rusko track "Roll It, Light It," there was no way to know exactly what to expect from a collaboration like this. It's

not the first time Cypress Hill have stepped out onto the dance floor: During drum-and-bass's emergence in the '90s, they recorded tracks with both Roni Size ("Child of the Wild West") and Grooverider ("On the Double"), but dubstep's deep connection with Cypress' core fanbase became clear to B-Real as soon as he started taking requests during a DJ session he hosted on *breal.tv*.

"Somebody started asking me about dubstep, and I said, 'Well, shoot, I don't really have a big library on that.' So I invited them to send me tracks, and *boom*—I had over 1,000 dubstep songs," he recalls. "And [a lot of the

Rusko at the controls.



tracks] that stood out were from [Rusko's] catalog."

The team initially came together to produce one song, but from there, the project eventually morphed into the EP *Cypress x Rusko* (Cooperative Music). Touching on roots reggae ("Can't Keep Me Down," featuring Damian Marley), break-beat ("Stay Medicated") and trance ("Lez Go"), the collection finds Cypress bringing their 420-friendly personas onto the modern dance floor without skipping a beat. According to Rusko, the group's members rarely heard the same production twice: "The first instrumentals that these guys [would] hear and recorded on were completely different—sometimes in a completely different key, even. The beats that I originally sent were fairly basic, and it was then their vocals that I received on top of that."

The exchange, apparently, was a mutually advantageous one for both the Buddha-masters and the young Jedi. Rusko credits Cypress with introducing him to their Phuncky Feel Tips glass filters, and he's also learned to

**"It's just a matter of time before a lot of the hip-hop artists start really embracing dubstep and realizing this is just another branch of the tree."**

keep tobacco out of the spliffs when rolling for them. Like most UK producers, Rusko grew up lionizing American hip-hop MCs from afar, but he quickly found his ground with Cypress as both a collaborator and smoker. "When I was approached and told that Cypress wanted to make a track," he says, "I was over the moon and also like, 'Whoa, shit, this is gonna be crazy!' I was a little apprehensive and then nervous if I was gonna be able to cut it ..."

At this point, Sen Dog—who's been laying back in the cut—begins to cough, prompting Rusko to add: "But Sen has just been coughing behind me on a joint that I rolled, so that kind of speaks for itself. I guess I *can* cut it—if I can kill Sen with a joint I just rolled, maybe I'm good."

Nowadays, dubstep elicits almost as much drama and passion from its followers



Rusko steps up to the plate with some heavy hitters.

as hip-hop. Yet aside from Kanye's ham-handed Flux Pavilion sample on "Watch the Throne" and Lupe Fiasco's work with Bassnectar, hip-hop has been grudging in its adoption of bass-music tactics to date. B-Real compares it to rock's uneasy acceptance of hip-hop itself in the 1990s: "When hip-hop first came into relevance, a lot of R&B artists and rock artists wouldn't collaborate with us," he says. "And then

[when we did] the more alternative-ish shit, we kind of broke that chain. And I think it opened up a lot of people to try different things. Right now, hip-hop is very protective of hip-hop, like the rock-heads and the R&B-heads were when they were on top of the fucking heap. But it's just a matter of time before a lot of the hip-hop artists start really embracing dubstep and realizing this is just another branch of the tree."

Clearly, we haven't heard the last in the ongoing saga of dubstep vs. hip-hop—nor have we heard the last from this particular project, either. Rusko has already earmarked several beats for a future release. "We're just doing it 'cause we enjoyed it the first time, so there's no time frame [for its release yet]," he says of the material. And even founding Cypress partner DJ Muggs, now signed to EDM powerhouse Ultra, has begun to seriously explore

the bass in his production and DJ sets. B-Real, for his part, still spins, too. But it's best not to ask Cypress if they would actually consider working with anyone else in field—at least not while Rusko's around. "I *forbode* it," he insists. "I had to put my foot down."

"We're sticking to our guns!" B-Real agrees, quoting from the new EP: "When the shot goes off, everybody get down." 🌿

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# Sons of Biscuits

Comparing stashes and writing set lists with Conspirator.



Conspirator fire on all four cylinders.

**When Conspirator co-founder** Marc Brownstein was asked backstage at The Independent in San Francisco what strain of pot he was smoking, the affable bassist held up a bud and smiled: “Tangelo Haze.” But drummer K.J. Sawka turned the tables on *High Times*, asking what pot *we* had. (For the record, it was sweet *sativa* Candy Jack).

Between hits of Haze, electronica act Conspirator is touring the country to support their new album *Unlocked: Live From The Georgia Theater* (SCI Fidelity), featuring evocative originals like “Feed the Wolf” and “Retrgrade”, and the Pink Floyd-sampled cover of DJ Eric Prydz’ “Proper Education.”

The group occupies a unique niche in creating studio tracks via computer and then performing those

songs live with four quality musicians. “Conspirator is this weird thing that doesn’t really exist out there,” Brownstein mused. “It’s a true hybrid between a DJ and a band.”

**Asked if cannabis serves as a creative catalyst, Brownstein expanded the notion: “Over the years I’ve used pot as an everything catalyst.”**

For the uninitiated, Brownstein and cutting-edge keyboardist and Conspirator co-founder Aron Magner also raise hell in The Disco Biscuits. Regarding the Biscuits’ future, Brownstein was cautiously candid: “For years, we—Magner especially—had this vision of the Biscuits becoming a destination-type thing [playing festivals], which is perfect for us. We

play better shows taking off four months and then shredding for [a few] days. It’s exactly what we always envisioned happening, but maybe we didn’t prepare Biscuits fans for this.”

One of those upcoming Biscuits festivals is Mayan Holiday, and Brownstein was in anticipatory awe: “What are the chances that your job is taking you to Tulum, Mexico,

on Dec 21, 2012—to be on the beach at the Mayan ruins as the Mayan calendar resets?”

The author of broken pot pipe ode “Nughuffer,” Brownstein is a legendary smoker in the scene, but he went on extended weed hiatus last year, explaining: “I was out of control, I needed a break. When [guitarist Chris] Michetti joined the band, we went *wild* for about three months straight during our first bus tour; it was a *party*.”

Brownstein is now “back on the train” and has resumed smoking: “There was not a lot of tolerance at first. It was like dropping acid—but now it’s back to normal.” And with his new perspective came this advice: “You wanna get high? Take a seven-month break from pot, dawg.”

Asked if cannabis serves as a creative catalyst, Brownstein expanded the notion: “Over the years I’ve used pot as an *everything* catalyst.” Michetti offered a slight variance: “I think it goes either way when jamming—but with writing, I use pot as a reward after working on a song.”

Before the band took the stage, we requested an instrumental version of the Biscuits’ “Portal to an Empty Head” and Conspirator obliged for the encore. Earlier in the show, the band played a sizzling “Liquid Handcuffs/Tom Sawyer” jam, and Michetti confirmed afterward they jammed “Tom Sawyer” because we discussed Rush during the interview—very cool.

How long before bands just let *High Times* inspire their entire set lists? *Mark Miller*



## Birth of the Conspiracy

Marc Brownstein and Aron Magner first formed Conspirator in 2004 by adding a DJ, guitarist Chris Michetti of RAQ and a rotating series of live drummers to become the band they are today.

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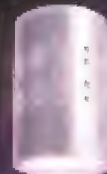
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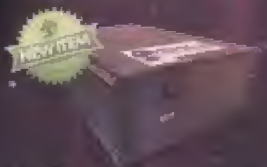
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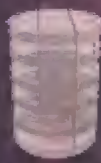
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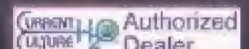
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UNSIGNED BAND  
OF THE MONTH:

## Leroy Justice

The guitar-driven grooves and powerhouse rhythm section of Leroy Justice recall the majestic Led Zeppelin—but it is in their dynamic live performance that this band truly comes to life. “We let the music go where it takes us,” says lead singer and songwriter Jason Gallagher.

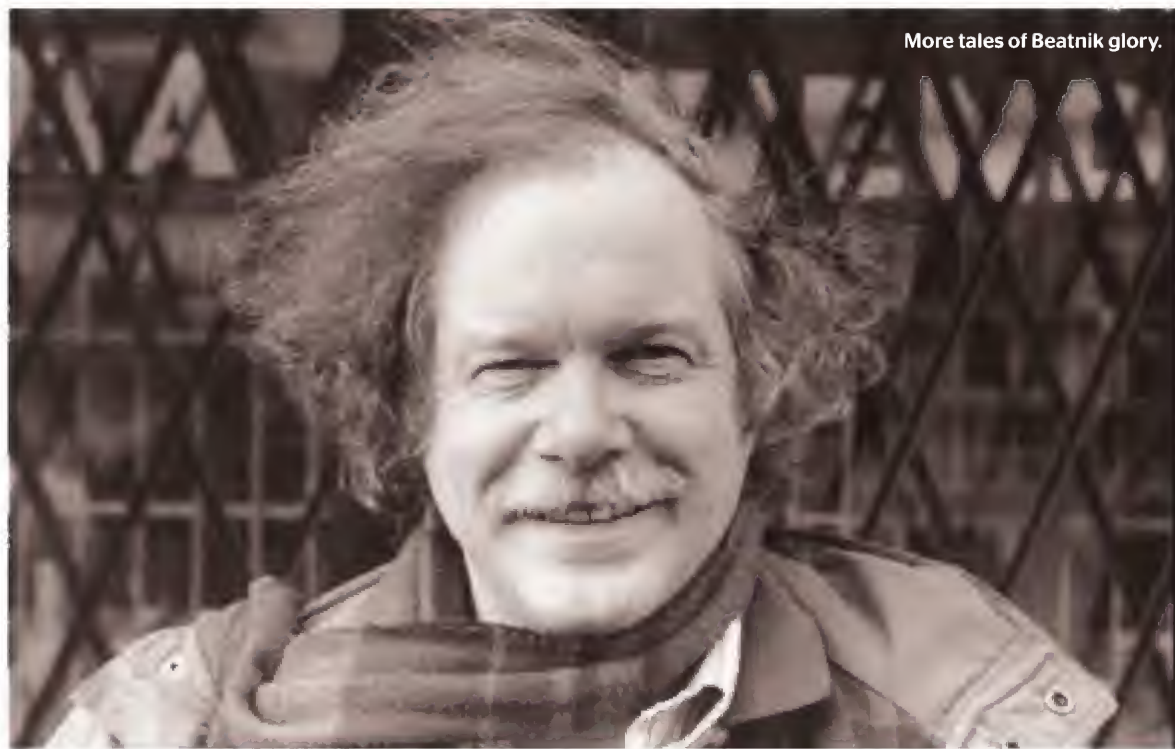
Gallagher’s soulful songs speak to both the mind and heart, and he delivers with brutal honesty. The band takes his cue and performs with a camaraderie and expressiveness that goes unmatched.

The result is a living, breathing soundscape,



surging and shrinking between song and sprawling jam, leaving everyone in the room, including the band, unsure of where things will go. “We have a strong connection,” says Gallagher, “where we can play off each other, listen to each other and know where we’re going without talking about it. I think it creates an intense emotional situation.”

For more information on Leroy Justice, including audio samples and tour dates, visit [high-times.com/leroyjustice](http://high-times.com/leroyjustice).



More tales of Beatnik glory.

# Fug Life

Countercultural pioneer Ed Sanders celebrates the Fug You movement with a new memoir.

**He’s been on** the crest of outrageous expression—from *Fuck You: A Magazine of the Arts* to his irreverent band, the Fugs—and he’s surfed the waves of nonviolent political protest. Ed Sanders and I first met in 1961, after he was arrested for trying (with others) to swim aboard the *Polaris*, a nuclear-armed submarine.

A year later, he published a parody catalog listing actual relics, like fellow poet Allen Ginsberg’s cold-cream jar containing one pubic hair. He sent the catalog to universities and sold the bizarre items at outlandish prices.

In 1965, Sanders, Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs launched LeMar, the Committee to Legalize Marijuana, which operated out of his Peace Eye Bookstore on the Lower East Side. With the aid of Fugs concerts, Sanders helped print Michael Aldrich’s *Marijuana Review*.

Plus, he was a co-founder of the Yippies. We held our first press conference at the Americana Hotel in New York. Songstress Judy Collins’s publicist had secured a plush conference room, ostensibly to announce her new album, but the event was also arranged to serve as the setting for the Yippies to officially proclaim their existence.

At our counter-convention, the Festival of Life, in Chicago that summer (the celebrated summer of ’68), the drug of choice was hash oil mixed into jars of honey. The Fugs were completely fugged up: Sanders described the



grass he was walking on as “a giant frothing trough of mutant spinach egg noodles.” He ended up sprawled on the sidewalk, so wasted that all he could do was wave at the pair of FBI agents who were following him—and who now had to help him back to his hotel room, which would also serve as a refuge area for demonstrators fleeing from the cops.

Sanders was such a devout pacifist that he wouldn’t eat chicken soup because a chicken had been killed to make it, yet in 1971, while investigating Charles Manson and the Tate-LaBianca murders for his book, *The Family*, he borrowed a pistol for a single night when staking out a possible cult animal sacrifice potentially connected with Manson.

He was also fearful of the Process Church of the Final Judgment, and I soon became interested in the connection between *that* cult and Manson. In the midst of researching the Process in Chicago, I got a call early one morning from a local conspiracy fanatic at the motel where I was staying. “Paul, I’m sorry to wake you,” he said, “but you’re in extreme danger.”

My heart started pounding, and I got dressed faster than I ever got dressed in my life, packed my stuff and ran down the back steps without even checking out. Then I called Ed in New York. “I’m scared,” I told him. “Aw,” he said, “they’re just punks.”

Somehow, that felt reassuring. It was a pure Ed Sanders moment. *Paul Krassner*





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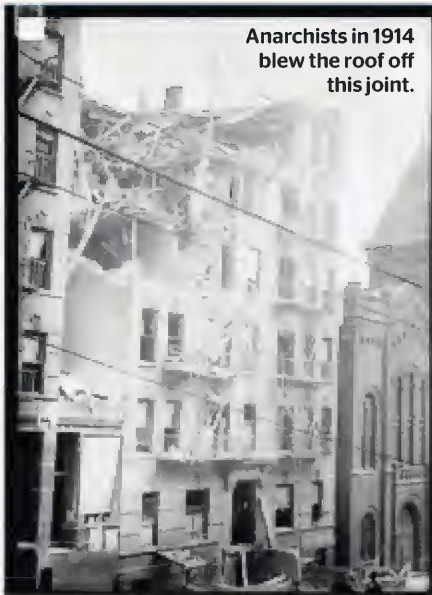
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# Anarchy in the USA

You think Occupy has a beef with Wall Street? Check out these guys.



Anarchists in 1914  
blew the roof off  
this joint.

## Author Thai Jones

was born “underground”—and, not surprisingly, the American underground of the 1970s has cast a long shadow over his own life. His

parents, Jeff Jones and Eleanor Stein, were '60s radicals in flight from the authorities, and so Thai grew up with a keen sense of lawmen, outlaws and the cause of freedom. In *More Powerful Than Dynamite*, he digs into the past and, by writing about the labor struggles in New York City in 1914, gets to the heart of the dilemma that would be faced by American radicals all throughout the 20th century.

Three anarchists planning to bomb the estate of John D. Rockefeller—then the richest man in the world—blew themselves up instead, along with their seven-story tenement building in Manhattan, on the Fourth of July, 1914. Jones explores the political, social and economic conditions that led to that explosion, and he also traces its fallout.



## More Powerful Than Dynamite: Radicals, Plutocrats, Progressives, and New York's Year of Anarchy

By Thai Jones  
(Walker & Company)

After 1914, when capitalism was in the throes of yet another economic crisis and socialism was growing rapidly in the United States, Rockefeller and his fellow one-percenters seem to have learned a lot more than the anarchists and 99-percenters of the day. What they learned, Jones suggests, was how to manipulate images and use the fledgling public relations industry to control the ways that Americans perceived themselves and,

indeed, the entire world. The mass media in the hands of the haves has proven far more powerful and more explosive than the dynamite of the anarchists.

*More Powerful Than Dynamite* will make you feel like a time traveler living through an extraordinary moment that will probably remind you of OUR OWN. *Jonah Raskin*

## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Neil Young &  
Crazy Horse  
*Americana*  
(Reprise)

Neil goes old-school on *Americana*, revisiting and retooling classic American folk songs with a little help from his rocking mates Crazy Horse. They're ideal collaborators for bringing an oft-grimy rock crunch and driving pulse to familiar odes such as “Oh Susannah” and “Wayfaring Stranger.”

Far from rote recitals, both the songs and the band sound reinvigorated. While there are a few mistakes and missed opportunities, they're far outnumbered by the striking efforts, including the foreboding “Jesus’ Chariot” and the rousing rocker “Clementine.”

*Chris Parker*



Lucero  
*Women & Work*  
(ATO Records)

Over 11 years and seven albums, Lucero's made a circuit from trad-country to country-punk and, finally, Muscle Shoals soul with a shot of the Boss. Indeed, Lucero's been fascinated with Springsteen ever since they added horns and killer keyboardist Rick Steff (Cat Power, Bottle Rockets) two

albums back, reaching their pinnacle with 2009's *1372 Overton Park*. On their latest, Ben Nichols sings more, but moody Memphis soul balladry predominates over the rockers (to the album's detriment). It's still a fine effort, however, highlighted by bluesy rags and sly soul.

*Chris Parker*



Hecuba  
*Modern*  
(Germ)

This LA electronic/other-pop pair (a.k.a. Isabel Albuquerque and Jon Beasley) explore their union as lovers and bandmates on their latest album, an arty minefield of crackling tension. Cruelly spare beats and squirming synths curdle tracks like “Dancing” while “Turn Out the Lights

II” offers complex tones of shocked numbness and suppressed anger that twine dissonant horn samples and plaintive piano into the couple's own matrix as each acknowledges their need for the other: “Where do you go when I turn out the light? / That's what I want to know.”

*John Payne*



Unlocked: Live  
From the  
Georgia Theatre  
*Conspirator*  
(SCI Fidelity)

Conspirator have really come into their own in live performance, and now they've produced a record to prove it. What used to be a mere side project of the Disco Biscuits' Aron Wagner and Marc Brownstein has morphed into its own distinct entity incorporating guitarist Chris Michetti and a

number of incredible drummers. Their new album fuses all of the genre's latest beats into one seamless jamtronica album, as touches of dubstep, disco, drum-and-bass, house beats and even a Pink Floyd remix come together to make the Conspirator sound what it is: perfect after-midnight music. *Morgan Rose*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Pot Stories for  
the Soul  
Compiled and  
edited by Paul  
Krassner  
(Soft Skull Press)

First published by High Times Books in 1999, this classic “for a Stoned America” (as the subtitle puts it) is filled with anecdotes from the likes of Hunter S. Thompson, Wavy Gravy, Ken Kesey, Tommy Chong and a whole bunch of folks you've probably never heard of, as well as

some who declined credit. But now it's been updated with new stories covering medical use, the shifting legal scene, vicious penalties and pot-smoking celebrities. Ultimately, Krassner and friends are here to remind us that smoking pot is a fun, safe, even *healthy* pursuit.

*Michael Simmons*

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The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

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## MUNCHIES

### Doubly Baked Potatoes

Put some buds on your spuds.

“Ahh, for the want of a potato did your ancestors cross the great sea.” This has been the opening line at dinnertime for many a night at my friend Rick’s house. As a longtime occasional boarder and surrogate aunt to his now-teenage

daughter, I’ve grown accustomed to the exaggerated brogue and harrowing tale of Rick’s Irish Catholic predecessors—so much so, in fact, that (much to his daughter’s chagrin) I’ve been guilty of instigating the spiel on the random nights that he forgets.

The “want of a potato” has been a pinball pinging in this writer’s mind ever since I first imagined the delicious delivery system of pot-infused spuds. (No teens at the table, of course; immigration story optional.)

With cannabutter, any potato dish can easily be dressed to the nines in Mary Jane, but these doubly baked bakers are gooey, delicious and completely customizable—not to mention inspired by our mutual friend Jane, whose Bronx brogue and potato finesse are as Irish as they come. *Mary Ought Six*

#### DOUBLY BAKED POTATOES

¼ cup cannabutter  
4 large baker potatoes  
¼ cup heavy cream  
(Use more or less depending on consistency preference)  
2 cups shredded cheese  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Bacon bits, chives, black olives, hot sauce or whatever other toppings float your tater boat

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Scrub the potatoes but do *not* peel. Pierce the spuds with fork tines several times and place them in the oven for an hour or until tender.

While the potatoes bake, prepare the cannabutter. Slowly melt ¼ cup of unsalted butter in a double boiler. Gradually stir in five grams of ground marijuana until coated and keep over low heat for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally (though remove from heat immediately if you smell the pot “browning”). Strain through cheesecloth to remove the vegetable matter, squeeze

out all of the infusion and set the cannabutter aside.

When the hot potatoes can be safely handled, cut them in half lengthwise and scoop the insides into a bowl, leaving a sturdy little shell. Next, beat the potatoes on low with a hand mixer, adding the heavy cream gradually to keep the texture to your liking. Blend in the cannabutter, 1 cup of shredded cheese and the salt and pepper.

Refill the skins and trap in their goodness by topping them off with the remaining shredded cheese. Put them back in the oven for five to 10 minutes or until they’re nice and melty. (You don’t want to over-bake on the second round, as the precious cannabinoids will cook right out! Ahh, for the want of a cannabinoid.) Serve them up with sour cream, bacon or whatever else you’re craving. They make a great afternoon snack in the fall or a perfect side dish for many a meal. *Stones 4.*

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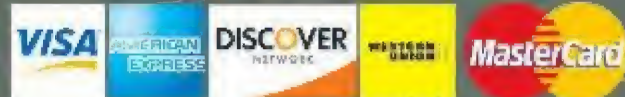
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## STRAIN OF THE MONTH: SOUR TSUNAMI



By now, everybody knows all about THC, the most prominent and psychoactive chemical compound found in the marijuana plant, first isolated by Dr. Raphael Mechoulam in 1964. In fact, for decades, everyone from doctors and scientists to medical-marijuana patients and even everyday stoners generally accepted the notion that delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol—THC's formal name—was *the* active ingredient in cannabis, provid-

CBD shows tremendous promise in treating pain, insomnia, nausea, anxiety, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

ing not just the plant's legendary high, but also its myriad medical benefits. The latest research shows, however, that this myopic focus has done us all a great disservice.

Studies now prove that another cannabinoid (the name for compounds found only in the cannabis plant) known as cannabidiol, or CBD, shows tremendous promise in treating pain, insomnia, nausea, anxiety, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and cancer. Unfortunately, CBD also tends to temper the high created by THC, so over the years, those of us seeking increasingly stony strains have been unwittingly breeding CBD out of the cannabis gene pool, to the point where

most modern strains contain far less than 0.5 percent.

But now, thanks in large part to the pioneering work of Project CBD ([projectcbd.org](http://projectcbd.org)), truly compassionate breeders have been working to identify and develop a wide variety of CBD-rich strains. One of their most important discoveries, Sour Tsunami, was developed by Lawrence Ringo of the Southern Humboldt Seed Collective. The high-CBD version of this strain remains a phenotype, with each seed offering a 25 percent chance of containing 10% to 11% CBD (and 6% to 7% THC).

Ringo bred the Sour Tsunami by crossing NYC Diesel to Sour Diesel for about four years, constantly crossing it back to a Sour Diesel clone. Then he crossed the results, which he dubbed Double Diesel, to a local, *sativa*-dominant strain called Ferrari, and then recrossed *that* back to Sour Diesel to produce the Sour Tsunami, which is 60% *sativa* and matures after nine weeks into musky buds with sweet undertones. *David Bienenstock*



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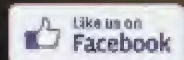
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*Nashville, TN*

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STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Huntsville	Blue Dream	\$425
		Sour Diesel	480
Arizona	Phoenix	Purple Urkel	400
		Granddaddy Purps	300
	Yuma	Green Crack	340
Arkansas	El Dorado	Vortex	420
		Reserva Privada OG #18	450
California	Sacramento	OG Kush	360
		Blue Dream	220
		Mars OG Wax	1,400
	San Diego	Bubba Kush	300
		Sour Diesel	300
		Mr. Nice Guy	350
Delaware	Pike Creek	Granddaddy Purps	340
		Hash Plant Haze	350
		Kandy Kush	390
Florida	Orlando	Vortex	380
		Bubba Kush	400
Georgia	Athens	Purple Kush	350
Indiana	Indianapolis	Blue Dream	560
		Diesel	560
		Bubblegum	550
Massachusetts	Revere Boston	Purple Kush	325
		NYC Sour Diesel	375
Minnesota	Winona	Blue Cheese	350
Mississippi	Meridian	Sour Diesel	375
Montana	Butte	Headband	225
New Hampshire	Manchester	Headband	350
		White Widow	400
	Portsmouth	OG Kush	360
		Blueberry Trainwreck	360
Platinum Blue Dream	400		
New Jersey	Trenton	Diesel	320
New York	New York	Strawberry Cough	400
		Guava Chem	450
		Strawberry Cough Earwax	1,960
Ohio	Huber Heights	Lavender	400
		Cheese	345
		Haze	400
Tennessee	Nashville	Grape Ape	650
Texas	Dallas	Raspberry Cough	350
		Blue Widow	325
Virginia	Mechanicsville	Orange Chunk	400
		Grape Ape	375
	Yorktown	Sour Diesel	400
		Chemwreck	420
INTERNATIONAL			
Australia	Queensland	Super Silver Haze	AU\$360
Canada	Halifax	Tahoe OG	C\$250
		Purple Kush	250
		Jack Herer	200

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices finished above their previous month's average with the exception of the Schwag Index. The US Price and Mids indices both closed September with year-high showings: At \$358, the US Price Index reached its highest monthly average since October 2011, while the Mids Index soared to \$300 an ounce—its best performance in 32 months (January 2010).

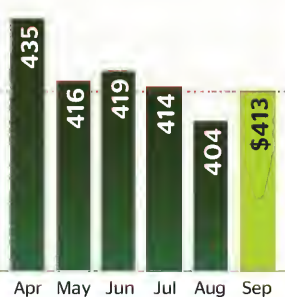
US Price Index

YTD Average: \$330



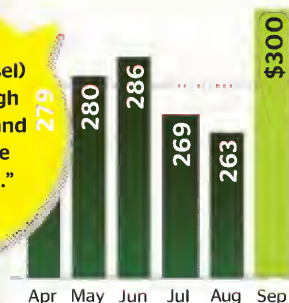
Kind Index

YTD Average: \$413



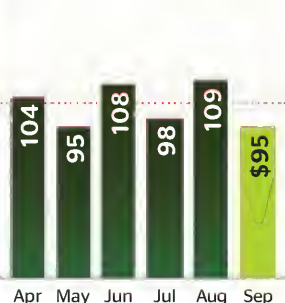
Mids Index

YTD Average: \$278



Schwag Index

YTD Average: \$102



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*Boston, MA*

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When your first 12 hour bloom cycle ends,  
a Flipbox redirects the ballast output to lights  
in another room, where a new 12 hour bloom  
cycle begins.

**Think about that:** Two bloom cycles in one day.

Double production without adding more power.

**MAKE EVERY AMP COUNT!**



[WWW.POWERBOXINC.COM](http://WWW.POWERBOXINC.COM)



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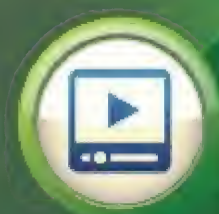
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# 2012 S.T.A.S.H. AWARDS

OUR PICKS FOR GEAR OF THE YEAR.



Technology is a beautiful thing—and it's even prettier when it helps us grow dank buds! Our 14th Annual S.T.A.S.H. Awards (for Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture) pay homage to new technologies, new innovators and new grow gear for improving both flower quality and yields.

*Compiled by the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department*

**THE  
BEST  
2012**

**New Lighting Product**  
**SunPulse Plasma & HI-LED Orbiter**

(see previous page)

The new rotating light system developed by GAS

Technologies, the SunPulse Plasma & HI-LED Orbiter (shown on the cover), is the first of its kind to combine cutting-edge high-intensity light-emitting diodes (HI-LEDs) with a plasma-light centerpiece. As the HI-LEDs orbit around the plasma bulb, the heat buildup usually created by traditional high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs is eliminated, and plants can enjoy high-quality light without the added thermal stress. Each LED chip comes with a Wave Guide Lensing System that amplifies the light, making it brighter and more focused. The Orbiter is available in two models: the more economical four-chip system with four 50-watt HI-LEDs and a 100-watt plasma bulb at its core, and the full eight-chip system, which boasts 80 watts on each arm and a 100-watt plasma bulb in the center. Like the SunPulse HID lamps, the HI-LED chips are available in different spectral wavelengths and a variety of Kelvin-rated colors: HPS 2K, 3K, 4K, 6.5K and 10K.

\$2200 Big Unit; \$1300 Eco Unit  
[greatlakesgardenwholesale.com](http://greatlakesgardenwholesale.com);  
[sunpulsalamps.com](http://sunpulsalamps.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

**Budget Hydro Unit**  
**Eco Flow Desktop Hydroponics System**

Sure there are plenty of pricey and complicated

hydroponic systems out there, but we're always looking for something simple, affordable and effective. We're pleased to report that the Eco Flow Desktop Hydroponics System fits the bill on all three counts! Each unit is small yet quite powerful, sizing up at 8" x 4" x 4" and yet still capable of explosive growth. They come with a 3-inch net pot with grow-stones as well as starter seed cubes and enough nutrients for your first run. The adjustable air pump with "air injection technology" insures your roots receive everything they need to thrive and prosper. Don't be deceived by the small footprint area—these tiny technological wonders will burst forth with plenty of bud, and for the price (including free shipping), you can't find a better pot growing hydro system anywhere.

\$38.00  
[modularhydro.com](http://modularhydro.com)



**Growroom Glasses**

**THE BEST 2012**

**Method Seven**

From the moment we heard that these glasses were being developed, we knew that every indoor grower on Earth was going to want a pair. Method Seven glasses were designed specifically for the growroom using patented technology to color-balance the output of high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights. The resulting view through the shades is truly an eye opener: The harsh yellow HPS light is replaced by clear, realistic-looking daylight, making it much easier to identify the signs of yellowing leaves or tiny pests that can elude the vision under powerful grow lights. Add to that the fact that they protect your eyes from harmful rays as well as being affordable, comfortable and stylish, and we know you'll want at least one pair, too.

\$200

[methodseven.com](http://methodseven.com)



**Ballast Flipper**

**THE BEST 2012**

**Powerbox Flipbox LSM-20**

Large-scale cannabis horticulture requires products designed to save electricity and maximize efficiency. The Powerbox Flipbox LSM-20 from Powerbox Inc. allows growers to run 20 lights from 10 ballasts in two side-by-side rooms with alternating 12-hours-on/12-hours-off day/night cycles. The built-in heavy-duty timer ensures that the lights fire up when needed, but without the telltale electrical spikes that occur when ballasts first turn on. Couple that with a five-year warranty, and you've got an impressive piece of equipment that will save time and money from your first harvest on. The best thing about these units is that they're built to last, and they even come with battery backup to keep the timer working in case of any electrical interruptions that might arise.

\$1,149

[powerboxinc.com](http://powerboxinc.com)



**Growbox Package**

**THE BEST 2012**

**The Big Mac from BC Northern Lights**

Canadian growbox pioneers BC Northern Lights are perennial

S.T.A.S.H. Award winners, and it's easy to see why: Their impeccable customer service and intense commitment to quality and innovation have resulted in some of the finest pieces of personal grow equipment available. But they don't neglect the commercial grower either, and their Big Mac package deal delivers 18 plants every five weeks using two Producers, one Mother-ship, two Dryers, a Powercloner and the Big Mac Nutrient Pack. Add in two T-5 upgrades, and your dreams of a perpetual pot harvest are ready to be realized. Lately, BC Northern Lights have been selling a bunch of these to trendy restaurants in need of a constant supply of fresh local greens and vegetables. Sure, it's a bit pricey, but you'll be self-sufficient in no time, and with plenty of pot left over to share with friends.

\$12,375

[bcnorthernlights.com](http://bcnorthernlights.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

### Vertical Grow System Big Buddha Box

Vertical growing is all the rage among indoor farmers who want to magnify their yield per square foot of

floor space. The Big Buddha Box from Supercloset significantly increases the amount you can harvest on each run by placing the plants on separate tiers running from top to bottom in the space and letting them grow in toward the vertical light source. Turn a single 8' x 8' space into the equivalent of four similar-sized growrooms with this compact 48-plant system. Two SuperCool Dimmable Lumatek 600-watt HPS grow lights in the center illuminate the box for what they've dubbed "Verticalponics." You can literally quadruple your bud bounty using this innovative system, which is proudly made in the USA (in the great state of California) and comes with a three-year warranty.

\$3,995 without tent, \$5,395 with tent  
[supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)



See it in action at:  
[hightimes.com/centurion](http://hightimes.com/centurion)



Get the free mobile app:  
[www.gettag.mobi](http://www.gettag.mobi)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

### Trimmer Centurion Pro

Industrial-sized trimming machines never seem to provide the precision or loving care of a human with a pair of scissors. Luckily, the folks who brought us the original Centurion trimmer have released the incredible new Centurion Pro, a true innovation and the leader in the next generation of automated trimmers. It's relatively small and light and quite easy to operate and maintain. The blades are made of D2 hardened steel and magnetized for easy attachment and removal, and the whole unit is pressure-washable in order to keep it clean time and time again. With this unit, one person is capable of trimming more than 10 pounds in a single day. Get yourself the speed and security of the Centurion Pro to protect your harvest as well as provide perfect, closely trimmed buds every time.

\$11,000  
[thecenturionpro.com](http://thecenturionpro.com)





**THE BEST 2012**

**Growbox**

**The Stanley 336 Hydro Box**

The best growboxes are simple to use, easy to move and stealthy. That's why we love the new Stanley 336 Hydro Box from Accelerated Technologies, a whisper-quiet and odor-free model that maximizes yields while eliminating the many issues that can arise when growing in a limited space. Two custom-designed 80-watt LED grow lights (7/1/1 RBO ratio, aluminum chassis, 2-watt LEDs) illuminate the lockable flowering chamber without causing heat buildup or high electricity costs. A cloning tray with a humidity dome in the propagation chamber provides new rooted cuttings, which means you can harvest as quickly as you can fill the system. Along with all the necessary nutrients, timers, meters, fans and monitors, you also get a CO<sub>2</sub> injection system, DVD instructions and a 15-year-plus life expectancy! The box measures 72" x 36" x 18".

\$2,350  
actechwi.com



**THE BEST 2012**

**Budget Growbox Under \$1,000**

**The PIG (Personal Indoor Garden)**

Originally designed for use onboard a yacht, the PIG (or "Personal Indoor Garden") utilizes the sturdy and efficient technology used in boat-making to resolve common growbox problems. The result is a simple, easy-to-use, rugged and stealthy hydroponic system that can be discreetly shipped right to your door—all for under \$1,000 (plus shipping and handling). The PIG's highly durable yet lightweight marine-grade polymer shell and stainless-steel fixtures will stand up to years of continued use, and the hatches (modeled after a boat's deck hatch) provide access to the irrigation, lighting, timing and ventilation controls while cleverly sealing incriminating aromas in and moisture out. Additionally, a unique airflow system circulates the air inside and directs it through a filtered exhaust. Four 125-watt fluorescent bulbs adjust easily and can be angled to light from the sides so that your plants reach maximum height. With up to four spaces for growing buds, the PIG will be a welcome addition to anyone's home or houseboat alike.

\$975, plus shipping and handling  
personalindoorgarden.com



**THE BEST 2012**

**Grow Tent**

**Gorilla Grow Tent**

Growing in tents can be a stealthy and affordable alternative to complicated grow-rooms or fancy automated boxes. The new Gorilla Grow Tents are the strongest and most versatile we've seen. Easy to assemble and adjustable in height, these units also boast the thickest fabric of any tent tested. (Three people hung from the supports and the tent barely budged!) The tents are light-tight and odor-proof as well as flood- and fire- resistant, while also remaining compatible with standard fans, filters and reflectors. Plus they're shipped with easy-to-follow instructions and come with lifetime customer service and support. So whether you're a beginner looking to start up a grow without dropping a fortune or a seasoned vet who's expanding into more space, try one of the many options available from Gorilla Grow Tent.

Various sizes and pricing  
gorillagrowtent.com

**THE  
BEST  
2012**

### Deep Water Culture System Super BubbleFlow Buckets

Growing bigger plants hydroponically in large containers is easy on the grower and also

safer in this era of state-mandated "plant limits." Deep water culture (DWC) systems allow growers to get the most out of every plant by dangling their roots in fiercely oxygenated water for explosive growth rates. The Super BubbleFlow Buckets from Supercloset grow pot plants big and fast without any complicated gadgetry, and they're easy to set up and move quickly, if necessary. The recirculating system eliminates the need to monitor each individual bucket, since they all receive the same oxygenated nutrient solution. You can choose from among the six-, 12- and 24-bucket systems, which means they're easily adaptable to suit a variety of spaces and needs.

Starting at \$495 (six buckets)

[supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

### New LED Technology The SG 1250 HO

If you're into maximizing the lighting potential in your indoor grow, you can't go wrong with the super-strong SG 1250 HO from the smart folks at Stealth Grow.

Tackling the two central issues of light intensity and spectrum quality, the 1250 boasts the power of a 1,200-watt lamp while only drawing the electricity equivalent of a 680-watt lamp (6.5 amps on a 110-volt current). And when it comes to spectral frequencies, the unit integrates four essential color wavelengths for a broader spectrum compared to most LEDs available for horticultural lighting. Aside from the obvious benefits associated with LEDs, such as power efficiency and lower heat emissions, the 1250 is also an economical investment, with a lifespan that ranges from 50,000 to 100,000 hours—that's somewhere between six and 12 years! The lamp measures 22" x 30" x 8".

\$3,499

[stealthgrow.com](http://stealthgrow.com)

(For more information on new advances in horticultural LED lighting, be sure to read the upcoming LED grow feature in our October 2012 issue.)

**THE  
BEST  
2012**

### Ballast Nano Digital Ballast

With the wide array of digital ballasts hitting the market lately, it can be hard to determine which one gives you the most bang for your buck. The new Nano Digital Ballast

from Illuminati International is half the weight and size of the competition, but it still has all the bells and whistles intact. In particular, the "soft start" and "soft dim" features ensure that you can maximize your light usage without wasting valuable lumens, and the Nano runs 20 percent cooler than any other ballast tested while still providing the brightest PAR (photosynthetically active radiation) light output available. These units are fully ETL-, UL-, CE- and FCC-certified, and they optimize electricity in some amazing ways using new circuit-board technology that can run both HPS and MH (metal halide) lighting. Plus it comes with a full five-year warranty, so you don't have to worry about breakdowns or setbacks while implementing the Nano in your growroom.

600-watt, \$207.95; 1,000-watt, \$334.95

[monstergardens.com](http://monstergardens.com)





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**\$32**



**\$24**



**\$369**



**\$419**



**\$68**



**\$44**



[www.MonsterGardens.com](http://www.MonsterGardens.com)





**THE  
BEST  
2012**

#### Pest-Control Product

##### Azatrol

Many of the pest-control products available on the market are either toxic or ineffective, and it can be quite hard (as well as quite frustrating) for growers with a bug problem to find solutions. We love the tried-and-true formula in PBI Gordon's Azatrol, an OMRI-listed organic insecticide that kills spider mites, thrips, whiteflies and more while utilizing food-grade ingredients that are safe around people and pets. Azatrol aggressively attacks adults and juveniles as well as eggs and larvae without having to resort to harmful chemicals that can damage leaves as well as lungs. Use it to prevent potential outbreaks of bugs or to control and eliminate existing pest populations, and you'll soon see why we feel it's the ultimate solution to insect issues.

\$84.99 per quart  
[hydrowholesale.com](http://hydrowholesale.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

#### New Mold-Prevention

##### Technology

##### OTC M-430 Spray

In today's era of medical marijuana and high-profile cannabis competitions, it's more important than ever to pay attention to every molecule we put into the cultivation of our plants. That's why nothing makes us happier than seeing effective organic ways being developed to prevent mold. Organic Technology Concepts are on the forefront of this effort, delivering products that are in no way harmful to plants—or the humans who consume them. Their OTC M-430 Spray is a completely organic, food-grade spray-on solution that fights against powdery mildew, black spots and numerous other molds. This topical solution kills fungal spores by changing the alkalinity of the plant's surface before they can take hold. OTC M-430 is also fully biodegradable and nontoxic to humans and animals.

\$17.49, 22-oz spray bottle  
[organictechnologyconcepts.com](http://organictechnologyconcepts.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

#### pH and TDS Meters

##### HM Digital PH-80 and COM-80

HM Digital has been a leading manufacturer of testing instruments for years, and their products always deliver low-cost solutions for the cannabis cultivator. Our colleague Kyle Kushman raved about their HM Digital PH-80 and COM-80 meters, calling them "simple, accurate and inexpensive," so we just had to try them out for ourselves. The pH meter delivers a temperature reading along with the true levels of acidity and alkalinity in your nutrient solution, while the EC/TDS (electrical conductivity/total dissolved solids) meter provides pinpoint accuracy on the levels of plant foods added. Proper pH, nutrient and temperature levels in the reservoir are essential for successful cannabis cultivation, and professional farmers and beginner hobbyists alike will be astounded at the ease with which they can acquire this vital data using these affordable meters in their gardens.

\$44.99  
[discount-hydro.com](http://discount-hydro.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2012**

#### Portable Climate-Control System

##### Climate Right CR-7000 & CR-2550

We've been waiting a long time for a smart, affordable climate-control unit to appear on the market, and the folks at Climate Right have hit the bull's-eye with their CR-7000 (7,000 BTU cooling and 7,500 BTU heating) and CR-2550 (2,500 BTU cooling and 1,800 BTU heating). Depending on the size of your growroom, either one is an excellent solution for combating heat and humidity, and both units are lightweight (with a maximum weight of 60 pounds), making them easy to ship, shift, hang or store. These all-in-one climate-control systems combine air-conditioning, heat and dehumidifier functions with easy-to-use, programmable digital-thermostat controls. The units are quiet, durable (they'll stand up to any outdoor weather conditions), and run on 110-volt current or generator power. The CR-7000 is perfect for enclosures ranging from 350 to 1,200 cubic feet, while the CR-2550 is great for smaller spaces from five to 350 cubic feet.

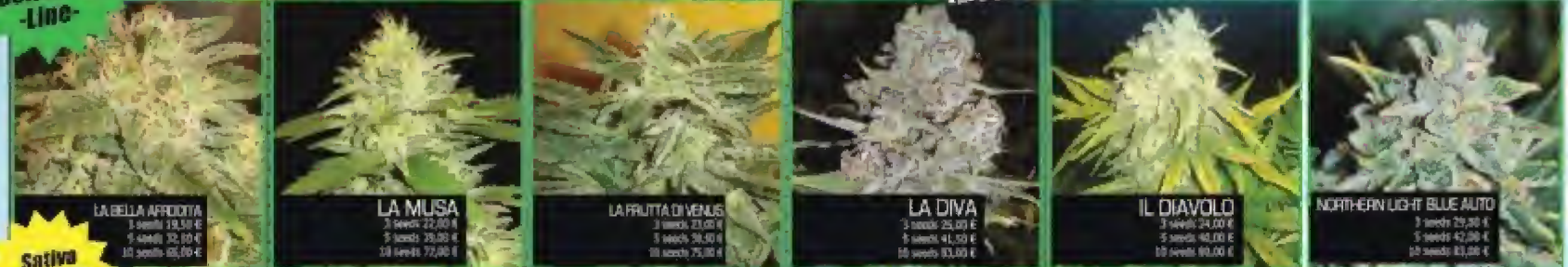
\$599 (CR-2550, new 2012 version); \$549 (CR-7000, end-of-model-year sale price)  
[climaterightair.com](http://climaterightair.com)

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MEDICAL + PRODUCT



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Sativa Delicious-Line



Indica Delicious-Line



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Fines Medical Seeds



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Afgan kush x yumbolt



Mazar x great white shark



Northern light x skunk



Mazar x White rhino

THC: 20% CBD: 0.3% CBN: 0.25%  
Without any doubt, this is one of our best medical strains due to its high THC content and relaxing properties. Perfect for cancer chemotherapy and nausea derived from its treatment.



Northern light x Big Bud

THC: 16% CBD: 0.23% CBN: 1.25%  
Alleviates symptoms of depression as it is a natural mood raiser. Stimulates appetite and alleviates cachexia.

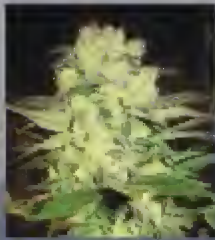
### The Medical Collection



Afgan kush x black domina



Afgan kush x skunk



Afgan kush x white widow

	3 seeds	7 seeds	12 seeds
AFGHAN KUSH x BLACK DOMINA	19.50 €	45.50 €	74 €
AFGHAN KUSH x WHITE WIDOW	20 €	46.50 €	76 €
AFGHAN KUSH x YUMBOLT	18 €	42 €	69 €
AFGHAN KUSH x SKUNK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
MAZAR x GREAT WHITE SHARK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
MAZAR x WHITE RHINO	19.50 €	45.50 €	74 €
NORTHERN LIGHT x SKUNK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
NORTHERN LIGHT x BIG BUD	25 €	57 €	95 €



www.worldofseeds.eu

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**Dry Nutrients**

**Growology 3-Step System**

Some pot growers prefer their plant foods dry and granular so that they can apply them directly to their soil mix or blend them with water themselves instead of paying for someone else to dilute them. The highly concentrated Growology

3-Step System from Doggett Simpson contains humates and beneficial mycorrhizae as well as all the requisite macro- and micronutrients that plants need for vigorous growth at every stage of their lives, and a special wetting agent ensures that the food is absorbed at the necessary levels. Use Step 1 for seedlings and new clones, Step 2 for the vegetating stage, and Step 3 for flower formation. These formulas were specifically designed and tested for the cannabis plant and medical ganja growers in particular.

\$85 for the complete system  
doggettsimpson.com



**Liquid Nutrient**  
**Medi-One**

Complicated plant-feeding regimens are a recipe for disaster with growers looking for simplicity and ease. That's why we're so happy with Medi-One from Green Planet Nutrients, a one-part cannabis-food formula that provides the necessary building blocks for successful harvests instead of burnt tips and stagnant growth. The 4-3-3 nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K) ratio ensures that your pot plants

receive everything they need to survive and thrive without the headaches of mixing up a bunch of different bottles of plant foods. You can use Medi-One from start to finish as your primary nutrient and be sure that your buds are getting a full meal across the spectrum for proper growth in all stages of life. Once you try this all-purpose plant food, you'll never have to worry and fret over feedings again.



\$27.99, 1 liter; \$79.99, 4 liters  
mygreenplanet.com

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- \*Internal Air Scrubbers!
- \*Completely Turn-Key
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- \*Use under \$10 a month in energy!
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**THE BEST 2012**

**Feminizing Spray**

**Tiresias Mist**

If you're interested in developing your very own unique marijuana strain (or in saving an existing clone-only variety that you covet), the new Tiresias Mist spray from Dr. T's Remedies makes it all possible. In the past, aspiring breeders had to rely on dubious homemade mixes to force their females to grow male flowers (since the pollen from those flowers will produce only female seeds when used to fertilize a female plant). With Tiresias Mist, simply spray a chosen branch during the earliest stage of flowering (before the plant has shown its sex) and continue spraying once a day for two to three weeks. Soon you'll see banana-shaped "male" flowers among your female buds. Use the pollen produced on a flowering female, and voilà—your very own feminized seeds!

\$24.99, 1-oz bottle  
drtremedies.com

**THE BEST 2012**

**New Soilless Medium**

**M3 Medical Marijuana Mix**

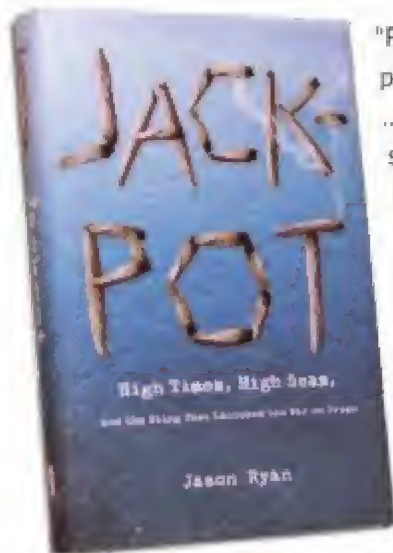
You gotta love it when a product label reads "Just add water," because a grower's life is filled with enough work and a little easy garden-tending goes a long way. Luckily, the fine folks at JFMMM Corp. take their grow mediums seriously, adding to their M3 Medical Marijuana Mix only the finest organic ingredients. This high-quality, environmentally conscious soilless mix starts with fire-baked and sterilized Canadian peat moss and Michigan sphagnum as its base, fortified with fossilized seabird guanos and rock phosphates for a complete, time-released grow medium that will last the duration of your plant cycle (and beyond, if need be). Plus you can grow right out of the bag (2 cubic feet, 15 pounds, with a 15-33-38 N-P-K ratio).



15-lb. bag, \$34.95  
plus shipping  
jfmmm.com

# Take Two Big Hits ...

... of outlaw pot adventures—from the exploits of "gentlemen smugglers" on the high seas to the criminal antics of folk legend and hillbilly farmer Johnny Boone in the backwoods of Kentucky.



"Part *New Yorker* feature, part Jimmy Buffett song. ... The result is adventure-some, lavish, informative fun. Try it. You'll like it."  
—GQ magazine



"A speeding bullet of a book that turns grower Johnny Boone into one of the most fascinating characters I've encountered in years. If Hunter S. Thompson were still with us I believe he'd be praising *The Cornbread Mafia* and telling his friends to read it."  
—Philip S. Turner, bookseller, publisher, and blogger at *The Great Gray Bridge*





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**Deadhead OG Seeds**

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**Jamaican D Seeds**

REG **\$11.24**

**Jamaican OG Seeds**

REG/FEM **\$14.97**

**Julius Caesar Seeds**

REG **\$14.97**

**Larry OG Seeds**

REG/FEM **\$14.66**

**OGiesel Seeds**

REG **\$14.66**

**Pre-98 Bubba BX2**

REG/FEM **\$14.66**

**Tahoe OG Kush**

REG/FEM **\$14.66**

We offer both **single seeds** and **full packs of ten**, allowing you to create your perfect grow room.

**Single seeds** are dispatched with a portion of the original product carton. Seeds are despatched stealthily from Great Britain and you are billed discreetly. We will replace your seeds if they do not reach you, whatever the reason!

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from

# \$1.99

/Seed

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[www.worldwide-marijuana-seeds.com](http://www.worldwide-marijuana-seeds.com)

At the 2nd Annual *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver, the Colorado cannabis community proved once again that its people, politics and pot scene are the most progressive in the nation.

# friends **IN HIGH PLACES**



The "Amendment 20" medication area offered Colorado's best ganja products.

# T

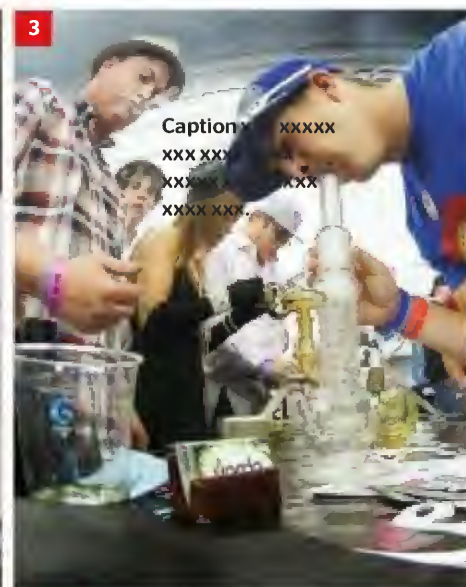
**ake a look** at a map of America. You'll discover that, next to Wyoming, Colorado is the squarest state in the nation. But no one associates Coloradans with "square"

behavior. Their trailblazing vision for cannabis in the state has spawned a thriving medical marijuana industry and may ultimately lead to legalization far beyond safe access for patients.

The marijuana movement is ever evolving, constantly in motion—a cauldron of policy debates and battles for basic liberty, which many Americans still don't believe should extend to marijuana smokers. Colorado's kettle is roiling and boiling with superior strains available to medical cannabis patients and an initiative on the upcoming 2012 election ballot that seeks to swing the door open for legal, adult recreational use statewide. This vibrant (though sometimes prickly) marijuana scene couldn't have provided a better showcase for the 2nd Annual *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver.

The 4/20 festivities on Friday, April 20, got event-goers warmed up for the weekend: Many of those who attended the massive rally in Denver's City Park were more than willing to extend their celebration by attending the Cup. Two days of





1) Legal patients were welcomed in the “Amendment 20” medication area. 2) Fresh Baked offered delectable pot edibles. 3) Nearly every booth in the medication area provided concentrate samples. 4) Free hits of Pineapple Express were a big hit. 5) The booth of Aloha’s LLC featured live plants and friendly hostesses. 6) The *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in a winner’s hands. 7) Dopeass Glass took third place honors for Best Glass. 8) An on-site glassblower’s artistry wowed Cup attendees. 9) Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko (far right) leads a cultivation seminar.

perfect “weed weather” featuring balmy, blue skies complemented the *high* spirits of cannabis lovers flowing into the EXDO Event Center. An affair whose logistics require space for a trade show, a stage for an awards presentation, and a safe, legal area where thousands of patients can examine and sample some of the best pot on the planet is an unwieldy beast to tame, but EXDO proved once again to be an outstanding venue for staging this Rocky Mountain tribute to the cannabis plant.

This year’s Amendment 20 medication area (named after Colorado’s historic medical marijuana law) was increased to twice its original size for the Cup. The big draw in the hall was the dank weed available to legal Colorado patients, as well as the high-powered “dab” hits distributed liberally by various medical marijuana providers.

In case you’ve just arrived on the

planet, “dabs”—high-THC concentrates and oils—have become an industry favorite. But the trend is not without its controversy. Certainly, there are safety issues to be considered in the manufacture of these potent medications, and many consumers worry about the possible health dangers. “To Dab or Not to Dab,” a panel discussion mounted to address such concerns that featured Dr. Robert Melamede and Dr. Alan Shackelford as well as two dab manufacturers, Daniel de Sailles and Selecta Nikka T, concluded that responsibility on the part of both producers and consumers is key. In other words, know your dosage and who’s making your dabs.

In other seminars, the controversy surrounding the upcoming ballot initiative arose repeatedly. Amendment 64, formally titled the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act of 2012, has its share of

detractors, who argue that the measure still keeps prohibition policies alive and well. Mason Tvert of SAFER, who crafted the bill, was on hand to defend its merits, while other activists argued that it doesn’t go far enough in removing criminal penalties for cultivation and possession. Another seminar, which explored the political challenges of moving from medical use to full legalization, was another noisy affair, with “Radical” Russ Belville of NORML receiving pointed jabs from one member of the audience. No shrinking violet himself, Russ gave as good as he got, stating flatly that if you’re against legalization, you’re supporting prohibition. His “box canyon” presentation (which he also laid out in his article “Beware the Box Canyon” in the April ‘12 issue of *HT*) put his argument into perspective for many: “When you say ‘I’m a patient, not a criminal,’ it implies that if



Relying on lab results and the determinations of pot scholars, the judging system assures winners that their products are thoroughly deserving of the Cup.





NORML founder Keith Stroup accepts our Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event ended with the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup awards recognizing the top pot products in Colorado. During the past 18 months, cultivation editor Nico Escondido has constructed perhaps

See Keith Stroup's tribute: [hightimes.com/stroup](http://hightimes.com/stroup)



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the most comprehensive judging system on the planet for establishing the top strains in the industry. Relying on both lab results and the determinations of knowledgeable growers and pot scholars, the judging system assures winners that their products are thoroughly deserving of the Medical Cannabis Cup.

The ceremony was punctuated by two special awards: Keith Stroup, the founder of NORML, was pleasantly surprised by the presentation of the *High Times* Lifetime Achievement Award, while Emily Aryn of Lansing, MI, was crowned Miss *High Times* 2012.

We're now looking forward to 2013. There may be a whole new set of rules in place for the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup next year. Perhaps there will also be better laws and an even more vibrant cannabis industry flourishing in the state. As the dreams of Coloradans grow bigger and better, *High Times* will always be there to cheer them on. 🌿



Miss HIGH TIMES 2012 Emily Aryn.



Top Shelf Extracts take the Cup for Best Concentrate.

## CUP WINNERS

### BEST INDICA

- 1) SFV OG, Pink House Blooms
- 2) Kurple Fantasy, 420 Wellness on Alameda
- 3) Cataract Kush, RiverRock Wellness North

### BEST SATIVA

- 1) Stardawg Guava, The Clinic on Holly
- 2) Red-Headed Stranger, Natural Remedies
- 3) Jack Herer, Medicine Man Denver

### BEST HYBRID

- 1) Skunkberry, Green Man Cannabis
- 2) Jack Flash, Fresh Baked
- 3) Raskal OG, The Clinic on Holly

### PATIENTS' CHOICE AWARD

Tie: Pink House Blooms for Super Silver Haze, and The Clinic on Holly for Kosher Kush

### CBD AWARD

- 1) CBD Oil, RiverRock Wellness South
- 2) R4, Greenwerkz
- 3) Tora Bora, Natural Mystic Cannabis Caregivers

### BEST EDIBLES

- 1) Mint Chocolate Bar, Dabba Chocolate
- 2) Chocolate Truffles, Dixie Elixirs & Edibles
- 3) Bubble Brownie, Standing Akimbo

### BEST CONCENTRATE

- 1) 707 Headband Shatter, Top Shelf Extracts
- 2) Strawberry Cough Nectar, The Clinic Highlands
- 3) Blueberry Extract, RiverRock Wellness North

### BEST SOLVENTLESS CONCENTRATE

Lemon OG Solventless Wax, Pink House Verde

### BEST BOOTH

- 1) Incredibowl
- 2) Pink House Blooms
- 3) Platte Valley

### BEST PRODUCT

- 1) Mama P's Wholesale Grinding Company by MATE
- 2) Hitman Glass Chess Pieces book
- 3) The Essential Bags by The Trim Shop

### BEST GLASS

- 1) Mad Hatter Glass, Marble Madness
- 2) Hitman Glass, glass torch tube
- 3) Dopeass Glass

## STANDOUT STRAINS

After last year's epic competition, which boasted some of the most potent strains ever lab-tested at a *High Times* Cannabis Cup event, expectations ran high for our return to the Mile High City. And she didn't disappoint: With impressive cures and impeccable aesthetics—including in the concentrates and edibles categories—almost every one of the 149 entries looked like a winner upon first inspection. Following 10 days of scoring by expert judges, clear victors emerged. Some were old favorites, but there were surprises as well. Here are three of cultivation editor Nico Escondido's 2012 faves.

### Skunkberry

*Green Man Cannabis*

This entry had a total score of 79.5 out of a possible 100 points, the highest at the 2012 Denver Cup. (The previous highest score was 84.) Judges proved their expertise testing this Skunk x Blueberry; lab results revealed a THC content of 18.64%. Grown organically in soil by Green Man Cannabis, this entry grabbed top hybrid honors.

### Dawg's Waltz

*Natural Remedies*

I'm not sure how long this dandy lady has been on the Colorado scene, but it deserves special mention. A hybrid

of Tres Dawg x Purple Urkle, this entry had terrific aesthetics and aroma. A little bit more stabilization and good gardening work should help her achieve her genetic potential. Two different clinics entered the strain: One version, entered by Natural Remedies, hit 19.72%, the highest THC mark in the 2012 Denver Cup.

### CBD Oil

*RiverRock Wellness South*

I know, I know: How can a concentrate go up against flowers in the same competition? To be honest, this is the first and only CBD concentrate ever to be entered in a *High Times* Cannabis Cup. At the moment, we

haven't created separate categories for CBD strains and concentrates, but it was necessary to recognize the growers who took the time and care not only to grow a high-CBD strain, but to turn it into this amazing medicinal concentrate. Deservingly, RiverRock Wellness South took the top prize in the CBD category. Our lab results put this oil at almost 26% CBD.

A special shout-out goes to Cann-Labs and Herbal Synergy. Their dedicated lab teams, who accurately scored the competition's entries, inspired a great deal of confidence in our final decisions. *Nico Escondido*



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# Buds on the Bayou

One way to successfully harvest an outdoor cannabis crop is to locate your garden where no one else wants to go. Swamps and wetlands fit that description perfectly. *Story by Vinnie Kaz*

**S**wamps are low areas of woods or forest that hold runoff water (and also form topsoil “islands” surrounded by this standing water) that support the growth of all types of plant life. Because of the thick cover of plants, a swamp is the perfect area to locate a secret garden.

Swamps, marshes and bogs are everywhere! These areas are useless for farming, so the owners work around them, never performing maintenance on what is considered wasteland. As you drive around, be on the lookout for swamps that could be guerilla garden candidates. Once a swamp is spotted, check out aerial photos of the area on the

Internet—these photos will save you a lot of hiking time. Look for a secure spot to park a vehicle and another secure spot (or spots) to enter the area. After this, put some boots on the ground and go exploring.

Be advised, though, that exploring a swamp requires some special equipment. The water can get deep, so hip boots or even waders are a must. Waders cover the entire body to the height of the chest, allowing a grower to move through the deeper parts of the swamp. Buy a decent pair of work gloves to keep your hands dry and prevent them from being cut. It’s also a good idea to have an extra pair on you, because wet gloves mean cold hands!

**Construction of the Swamp Tube**  
Mary Jane thrives in well-drained soil, so she doesn’t like standing water around her roots. Because swamp soil is almost constantly saturated, the grower must use a raised container to hold the grow mix above the water level. These containers are referred to as “swamp tubes.” The most important step in building a proper-sized swamp tube is determining the high-water level in your swampy area. Examine the base of the trees for algae growth, which indicates the highest level that the water has reached in past years. The swamp tube is designed so that the bottom third will be submerged when the water level reaches its high





point, usually during every heavy rainfall event (i.e., a three feet tall swamp tube is used when the high-water level is nine to 10 inches deep). When rainfall raises the water level, the bottom layer of grow mix becomes saturated with water. The grow mix is then completely moistened, and the plants explode with growth.

Starting materials on your shopping list include a roll of four-foot-tall heavy wire fencing, some 10' x 10' plastic tarps, and a roll or two of duct tape. The amount of fencing needed is determined by the desired diameter of your swamp tubes, as well as the number of tubes to be built. Using an 18-inch diameter as an example, the swamp tube is approximately five feet around, meaning that one 50' roll of wire fencing will supply enough material to build 10 tubes. Each tube also requires one plastic tarp. Look for green or camo-pattern tarps; *do not* use blue, as those tarps stand out too much. You should expect the tarps to run you about \$5 each.

Some growers believe that cannabis cannot survive in a grow mix when the bottom third is sitting in water, but this isn't true: Cannabis loves a moist—even wet—grow mix, so long as there's another foot or more of dry mix above the water to act as a buffer and keep the roots well oxygenated. The grow mix used consists of finely shredded peat moss with a little added lime. The peat is used because it absorbs water like a sponge and holds it well.

There are many reasons that a swamp environment is perfect for cannabis growing. Because of the saturated soil, the trees and shrubs found in these areas are stunted, which means they won't block the sunlight. These small trees are tall enough to provide cover, but not large enough to throw your plants into shade. The tree branches should also be trimmed back if necessary to allow maximum sunlight penetration. This is the first rule for an outdoor bumper crop: *full sunlight for at least eight to 10 hours per day.*

**1) Cut a 4' x 5' piece of wire fencing so that the ends form wire spikes used to fasten the ends of the tube together. 2) Fencing is laid on top of the plastic camo tarp. 3) Wear work gloves while poking the spikes through the tarp material. 4) Fold the remaining tarp material over the top. 5) Form the fencing into a circle and twist the end spikes together to form the swamp tube. 6) A closeup after the spikes have been twisted tightly using pliers. 7) Fold the top and four to six inches of fencing over the outside of the tube. 8) The finished tube next to a 5-gallon bucket for comparison. 9) The mixing tool ensures proper distribution of nutrients.**





Fallen trees provide cover and increase stability for the swamp tubes.

One of the luxuries of growing in swamps is that the watering is taken care of by Mother Nature. The roots exist in standing water, constantly pulling it into the grow mix from below. These roots grow to the bottom of the swamp tube and into the saturated soil below, assuring the plants an ample supply of water even if the floor of the swamp dries out during hot weather. The plants constantly receive all of the moisture they need, leading to explosive growth rates.

Because swamps are low-lying, an inch of rain usually means a 3- to 4-inch rise in the swamp's water levels, with lower areas filling up even faster. And even after the waters recede, the soil in the bottom of the tube stays saturated for days. This cycle is repeated with every heavy rainfall. Water-absorbing polymers in the grow mix help to retain even more moisture; use the large-sized polymers at about ½ cup per cubic foot of soil mix. This is the second rule for an outdoor bumper crop: *A fast-growing, high-yielding cannabis garden requires huge amounts of irrigation water in order to reach its full yield potential.* This means that by using the swamp for water, the plants' irrigation needs are taken care of completely.

Once sunlight and irrigation are

covered, the next consideration is the amendments used to fertilize the plants. Peat moss has an acidic pH, and so does swamp water—which means that lime, in the form of oyster-shell flour or finely powdered agricultural limestone, should be added to adjust the pH. Oyster-shell flour is simply powdered oyster shells, which means it's full of calcium—and marijuana loves calcium!

Amendments are added in late winter/early spring. Mixing the amendments with the peat is done using a custom mixing tool that can be put together by the local blacksmith's shop for \$20. A 4ft.<sup>3</sup> bale of peat will top off an 18-inch diameter tube. Approximately six gallons of amendments will be added to the mix, so the amount of peat required will end up being less. Swamp growers add a variety of amendments to the mix, including:

- Cattle-manure compost (1.5 gal per cubic foot)
- Chicken-manure compost (1 qt per cubic foot)
- Bone meal (2 cups per cubic foot)
- Espoma 5-3-3 (3/4 cup per cubic foot)
- Alfalfa meal (1 cup per cubic foot)
- Kelp meal (1/8 cup per cubic foot)
- Worm castings (1 cup per cubic foot)
- High-nitrogen (N) and high-phosphorus (P)
- Bat guano (3/4 cup per cubic foot for each)

This large variety of amendments provides a balanced blend of macro- and micronutrients. Bone meal breaks down slowly, providing needed phosphorous at flowering. Alfalfa meal provides the fatty-acid-based growth stimulator triacontanol, the main ingredient in Superthrive. Kelp provides potassium and growth hormones. Espoma 5-3-3 is a full-spectrum fertilizer added to balance out deficiencies in the mix. These amendments all have a medium breakdown time, supplying the nutrients for three to four months.

With the plants well-watered and all of their fertilization needs taken care of, the number of visits to the site can be kept to a minimum, greatly enhancing your personal security. An undisturbed swamp tube will be completely surrounded by plant growth in a short time; the fast-growing plants simply swallow them up. At flowering, Earth Juice Bloom and Earth Juice Catalyst are watered in. Each tube receives two waterings, spaced one week apart.

### Installing the Swamp Tubes

The best time to install swamp tubes is in the very early spring, before the swamp growth becomes thick and unruly. Any trails that are made then will end up being completely overgrown come transplant time in early summer—so wear

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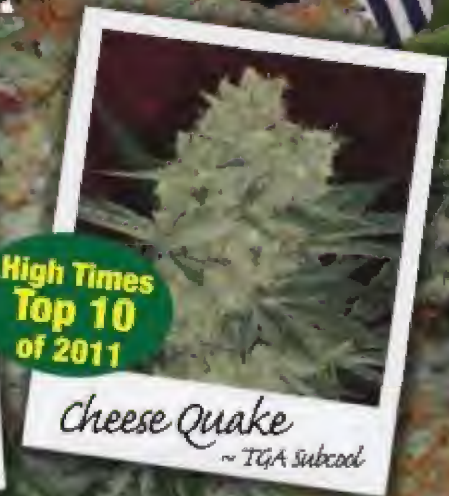
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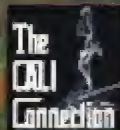
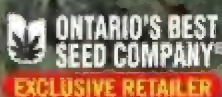
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your waders, because that water is deep and cold! The waders are rubber and waterproof, but not very warm, so wear a thin pair of sweatpants underneath the waders for insulation. If you're too cheap to buy waders and instead decide to use knee boots this time of year, it's virtually guaranteed that you will step into a deep spot and fill your boots to the top with very cold water.

To install the tubes, you will need three steel "utility" fence posts of the kind usually used to support chicken-wire fencing—they run about \$3 each. These have little "hooks" along their entire length that are used to attach the fencing. Next, buy a roll of steel rebar wire, which is the steel wire used to tie rebar supports together in concrete projects. A 350-foot-long roll costs about \$4, and this should be all you need. Also, purchase a 3-lb. sledgehammer to drive the fence posts into the floor of the swamp.

Each swamp tube requires a 4ft.<sup>3</sup> bale of grow mix. If you're strong, plan on carrying in the full bale; if not, purchase the 2.2ft.<sup>3</sup> bales. Also, when you purchase the grow mix, choose bales that are bone-dry—a wet bale of peat will weigh in at 100 pounds!

Each swamp tube weighs a couple of pounds, so five or six can be carried into the swamp at one time. Carrying the tubes is the easy part, but hauling in enough mix to fill multiple tubes will be a backbreaking task: The swamp is slippery, and there are all kinds of underwater obstacles to trip you up—and when you trip in the swamp with a bale of mix



The custom mixing tool was welded together by a local blacksmith for \$30 in materials and \$20 in labor costs.

on your shoulder, there is nowhere to land except in the water. Therefore, it's a good idea to first "blaze" a trail through the water without carrying anything.

Once you're at your guerrilla plot, stand the swamp tube in the desired location and hammer the fence posts into the swamp floor below. Three posts should be placed evenly around each tube. Do *not* skimp on the fence posts, because the plants grow so fast in the swamp that they'll become top-heavy and pull the entire tube over on its side without the proper support. Pound the posts into the swamp until they're even with

To harvest a successful crop, the grower must stay one step ahead of helicopters and plant thieves.

the top of the tube. Next, wrap the wire around the perimeter of the tube as well as the fence posts at least three or four times, making sure to wrap it around the hooks on the posts with each pass. Wrap the tubes at the top, middle and bottom: This extra support keeps the tubes from bursting open during the winter and the rainy season. Try to keep the tubes in a circular shape as you wrap them.

The tube is now ready to top off. Add some grow mix and some of the amendments and mix well. Do this until the tube is full. The best method for adding amendments is to mix them together in a bucket first, pouring a little at a time into the grow mix as it is poured into the tube. Use a small shovel to blend the soil as you go. At transplant time, the rooted female cuttings are placed into their tubes and given one shot of 20-20-20, which supplies each plant with a starting boost.

Another weather-related plus: The water in the swamp absorbs and holds heat that is generated during the daylight hours. This residual heat helps to prevent frost damage to later-maturing strains. As the nighttime temperatures drop below freezing, the stored heat is radiated back into the air, keeping the air temperature just warm enough to prevent the plants from being damaged by frost.

To harvest a successful crop, the grower must stay one step ahead of helicopters and plant thieves. A location deep in the swamp may seem spooky and intimidating at first, but once it's dialed in for maximum production, it can theoretically supply the grower with years and years of bountiful harvests. (Some of my own tubes have been in place for six years, and they're still in use!) Add additional tubes after each growing season and you'll soon have a massively yielding garden oasis that will provide pounds and pounds of buds, year after year, with almost no additional work involved. ✨

Vinnie Kaz is the author of the 400-page outdoor cultivation manual *Guerrilla Growing Trade Secrets: Hints, Kinks and Tips for the Clandestine Cannabis Grower*. Check out [tradesecretspublishing.com](http://tradesecretspublishing.com) for more info.

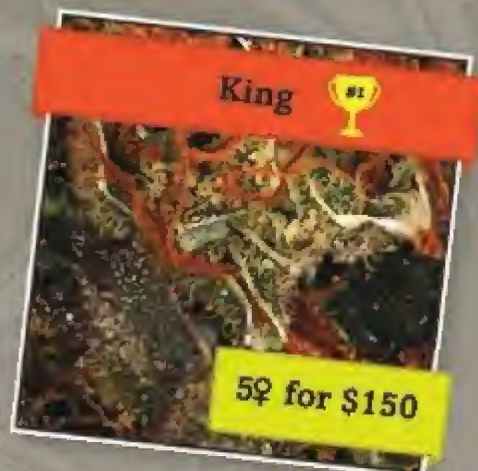


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# Death & Art in Culiacán

After years of horrific violence spawned by Mexico's drug war, a new generation of painters and artists is addressing the endless bloodshed—especially in Culiacán, home base of the powerful Sinaloa cartel. *Story & photos by Teun Voeten*

**I**n the botanical gardens of Culiacán, a city in northwest Mexico with some 675,000 inhabitants, young girls pose for pictures in baroque purple dresses. The photos are for their *quinceañera*, or fifteenth birthday, which marks the ritual transition to adulthood. A circle of six concrete slabs has been placed in the grass nearby. At first glance, they don't seem like anything unusual—just another of the artworks on display in the park. It's only on closer inspection that you see the inscription: "Concrete mixed with water with which murdered people were washed in the morgue."

The work is by Teresa Margolles, an artist originally from Culiacán, who has incorporated into her pieces physical evidence of the widespread drug violence that has plunged Mexico into a dark circle of death. Margolles attained international recognition with her controversial installation at the Venice Biennale in 2009, in which the floor was continuously mopped with water mixed with the blood of murder victims. The evaporating water left behind a thin film of blood cells,



Girls having their photographs taken for their 15th birthday, the so-called Fiesta de Quinceañera.

which were carried away beneath the shoes of visitors.

"The morgue is my studio," Margolles once said in an interview. Her artists' collective is called SeMeFo, the Spanish abbreviation for the official Mexican Forensic Medical Service, which carries out most of the autopsies on the country's daily dead. Blood and miscellaneous objects collected at crime scenes are the stuff of Margolles's art. *De qué otra cosa podríamos hablar?*—"How can we talk about anything else?"—was the title of her piece in Venice, an unambiguous cry from the heart.

Margolles currently divides her time between Mexico City and

Madrid, though she still has colleagues working in Culiacán. These include María Rosa Robles, a conceptual artist whose most famous piece used the actual blood-soaked blankets in which a number of victims were found; Lenin Marquez, a painter who specializes in meticulous portraits of the dead; and Fernando Brito, a photographer known for his haunting pictures of bullet-riddled bodies, often taken early in the day, in the soft and diffuse morning light.



A conceptual work by Maria Rosa Robles, called 'Angel of Independence.' The Angel is like Mexico's Statue of Liberty. In this version she is draped in a bloodied blanket in which an actual crime victim was found.

**M**exico has always had an obsession with death. The most important national holiday is *Día de los Muertos*, or “Day of the Dead,” when the deceased are remembered and celebrated with appearances by La Catrina, an elegantly dressed female skeleton. There is also the cult of Santa Muerte, a mix of Catholicism and pagan symbols that has attracted a large following among the lower classes as well as drug traffickers.

The cult of death has its roots in the country’s pre-Columbian culture. “We see death as a natural phenomenon for which we have respect,” says Robles simply. “Just as we celebrate life, we embrace death as well.”

Historically, death has always lurked just around the corner in Mexico, a country plagued by wars, revolutions and poverty throughout its long history. But these days, the bodies can literally be seen lying in the streets. Since Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared war on the country’s drug cartels in 2006, almost 50,000 people have been killed—more than total estimated casualties, civilian and military, in the US war in Afghanistan.

The world’s most dangerous city is now Ciudad Juárez, where 3,100 people were killed in 2010, out of a population of just over one million. Murder and mayhem in Mexico have become so common that the international media pays attention only in cases of spectacular horror, such as the firebombing of Monterrey’s Casino Royale in August of 2011, which killed 52 people, or the 35 bodies that were dumped on a highway in Monterrey during rush hour a month later.

But Culiacán, the capital of the Mexican state of Sinaloa, is a special case: It’s the birthplace of the most infamous Mexican drug lord as well as home base for the Sinaloa cartel, widely considered the most powerful drug-trafficking organization in the world. The cartel’s boss, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, is No. 55 on the *Forbes* list of the planet’s richest men, though he ranks No. 1 on the FBI’s “world’s most wanted” list.

Geographically, Sinaloa is a study in contrasts. To the west, there’s the long Pacific coast with its many inviting harbors; to the east, the wild Sierra Madre, the Mexican extension of the Rocky Mountains. Much like the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan, the Sierra Madre are one of the most inaccessible places on Earth—which makes them ideal for marijuana plantations and illegal landing strips, and (most likely) as

“We see death as a natural phenomenon for which we have respect. Just as we celebrate life, we embrace death as well.”



After authorities broke up her exhibition and confiscated her bloodied crime-scene blankets, Maria Rosa Robles protested by painting blankets with her own blood.

the hiding place for El Chapo.

Pedro Aviléz founded the Mexican drug trade in the 1960s with a marijuana business that would later become the Sinaloa cartel. It was here that El Chapo, his nephew, learned the tricks of the trade. Other successful interns included the Vicente Carrillo family, who later founded the Juárez cartel; the Arellano Félix brothers, who created the Tijuana cartel; and the Beltrán Leyva brothers, who split from El Chapo to form an organization of their own.

With just two to four murders a day, Culiacán is safer than Juárez—where, on a bad day, an average of nine people are killed. But it ranks nonetheless as one of Mexico’s most violent cities.

“The rate of killings is down compared with a few years ago,” says journalist Javier Valdez. “But violence expresses itself not only in statistics; it also manifests itself in the climate of fear and terror that has gripped the city.” Valdez, whose best-selling *Miss Narco* chronicled the lives of the drug lords’ wives and girlfriends, is—like most journalists in the country—a

cautious man. “Self-censorship has become the norm,” he admits. “We don’t mention too many names. We only write down 10 percent of what we actually know.”

And who can blame him? Every day in Mexico, mostly in the morning, the dead bodies of cartel victims are found in deserted fields, on back roads, underneath bridges, and in desolate industrial areas and vacant lots—sometimes with their hands tied behind their backs, bearing signs of torture, sometimes rolled up in blankets soaked with blood. The latter has become so common that a new expression has found its way into the rapidly growing dictionary of *narco* slang: *encobijado*, meaning “blanketed.”

In 2007, Rosa María Robles did an installation at the Sinaloa Museum of Art called *Red Carpet*, in which she covered the floor with a number of these blood-stained blankets, on which the museum-goers had to step. The exhibit gained international attention after the Culiacán public prosecutor closed it down and confiscated the blankets as official forensic evidence. “I knew I had made something powerful,” Robles says, “but it was never my intention to deliberately provoke [the authorities].”

The exhibit had begun to develop its own notoriety through word of mouth, but it was only after *El Debate*, the local newspaper, published two images—the first of a blanket around a victim, the second of the same blanket spread out in the museum—that a scandal started to develop. The authorities called in Robles and the director of the museum for some serious questioning. “They tried to scare me, told me that I could go to jail,” Robles recalls. “But I remained silent on how I obtained the blankets. That would have endangered the people that had helped me.”

In the end, Robles was released. “Even the authorities themselves realized that it was part of an artistic installation,” she says. “Later, the blankets were burnt for hygienic reasons. That was a shame.”

Asked if she worries about putting her own life in danger, given that the drug lords and their many hired killers might consider her work a little *too* pointed, Robles replies with a shrug: “The *narcos* live in another world; they have no idea what is going on in a museum.”

Robles often collaborates with Fernando Brito, a photojournalist and *El Debate*’s photo editor. One of her pieces consists of a bed and table on which the blankets and tablecloth have been replaced by the front pages of newspapers bearing the bloody images of

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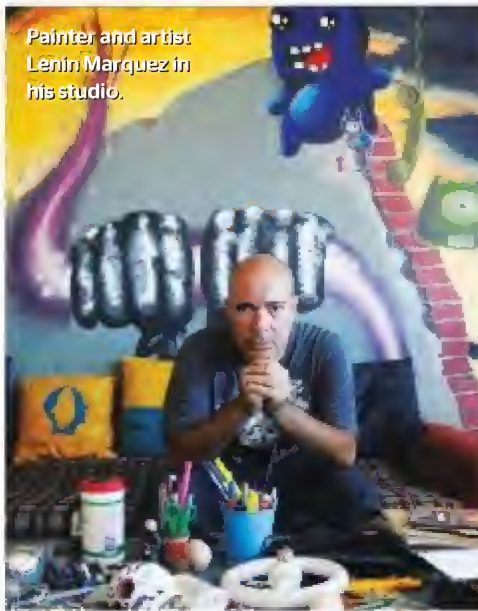


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murder victims, meant to symbolize how mundane these crimes have become in the country. Another of her pieces is a version of the *Pietà*, with the Virgin Mary now cradling a blood-soaked blanket instead of the crucified Jesus. In front of the statue, a sequence of 365 images of dead bodies are projected, all of them photos by Brito. “I asked him how many murder images he could supply,” Robles says. Brito’s answer: “Thousands.”

Brito’s work for *El Debate* has received a World Press Photo Award for Foreign News—specifically his series of photos of people executed by the drug lords. Brito’s pictures feature these dead bodies in unreal, beautiful and peaceful landscapes, sometimes in a soft and tender morning light reflected by thousands of dewdrops, other times under dramatic sunsets or ominous cloud formations.

“Here in Culiacán, we are used to these kind of images, but in Europe they could not believe it,” Brito says. “Some people thought the images were manipulated compositions.” For several years now, he has been covering *la nota roja* (the “red news,” as the crime pages are called). “I try to give these images an extra aesthetic dimension so they won’t have such an ephemeral character,” he



Painter and artist Lenin Marquez in his studio.

explains. “Photos of the murdered are quickly forgotten here. Most think the dead must have been guilty themselves and have only themselves to blame for their violent end. But, of course, not all victims are criminals.”

Brito now exhibits his work worldwide. “Because my images are not that hard and aggressive, they wind up in galleries and reach a completely different audience than the average newspaper reader,” he says. Even so, he declined an invitation to

show his images in Culiacán. “Too dangerous,” he says. “It only takes one person who might be offended and I have problems.” And, in Culiacán, having “problems” is something of an understatement: It means you’re a walking dead man.

At the moment, Brito is working on a series of portraits of the families of the dead. “I want to do something for Culiacán,” he says. Though it’s a dangerous city, he swears he’ll never leave it: “My wife, my friends, my family, all are from here. Culiacán is and will remain my city.”

Painter Lenin Marquez nearly became a fatality when he wound up in a firefight in which four people were killed. It would mark his life forever. “I went flat on the ground, and these bullets kept coming from all directions,” he recalls grimly. Now he paints realistic portraits of the murdered—some with scary grins, others with blank, empty faces. His most recent work features romantic landscapes done in a deliberately campy style—but instead of innocent shepherds frolicking or playing a flute, there are bound and blindfolded murder victims.

At the same time, Marquez insists: “My work is not a denunciation—I only observe and register.” He states clearly that he is not working in the tradition of

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famed Mexican muralists such as Diego Rivera and David Siqueiros—social critics whose angry engagement was reflected in paintings that sometimes seemed over the top. Margolles, likewise, describes her work modestly as “an invitation for reflection.”

This new school of Mexican artists won't paint caricatures of heroic workers fighting cigar-smoking capitalist bullies, as Rivera did, but instead uses more eclectic strategies to address what's happening to their country. At the same time, Marquez becomes quite impassioned when he talks about the killing fields. “The violence has turned into a deep, dark, black subculture,” he says. “It has become a cancer that has grown and spread inside the whole country. It is a complete disaster.”

Asked if he expects any solutions, Marquez replies: “Not within five years, not in a decade—Culiacán is just a sample of what the future has in store for us.”

Javier Valdez agrees: “We are living under the terrorist rule of the *narcos*—a terrorism without ideology, driven only by a power-hungry greed.”

At the Jardines de Humaya, one of the cemeteries of Culiacán, you can admire another expression of *narco cultura*, this



Jesus Malverde, the “Narco-Saint” that watches over outlaws and drug dealers.

one created not by artists, but by the drug lords themselves. Massive, elaborate mausoleums—some three stories high, complete with staircases and air-conditioning—have become a status symbol for every self-respecting *narco*. Culiacán also has the highest rate of Hummers per capita in the country, though they've temporarily disappeared from the streets: Since the start of Calderón's War

on Drugs, most traffickers prefer to keep a lower profile. But the Hummers still shine in the garages of the grandiose villas in the Bellavista neighborhood, where some of the homes are adorned with half a dozen gaudy domes. This uninhibited display of wealth results in some remarkable examples of *narco arquitectura*.

In the meantime, at the chapel of Jesús Malverde, visitors come and go: petty criminals, tourists from Los Angeles, mariachi bands and some *narco* heavy hitters. Malverde is said to have been a street bandit who was hung in the early 20th century; the authorities refused to allow a burial, instead leaving his body to decompose on the gallows. After it fell to the earth, passersby tossed small stones onto it as a silent protest, resulting in a kind of burial mound. Later, a chapel was built on that very spot.

Jesús Malverde has now become a cult hero with Robin Hood status, the patron saint of criminals, outlaws and underdogs in general. With granite plaques, some people express gratitude to him for miraculous healings, while others ask the *narco* saint to bless their latest drug shipment.

Margolles also has her own plaque here. “*Gracias por Todo*,” it says wryly: “Thanks for Everything.” ✨



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Tissue culture has its pros and cons. One pro: This sample is all you need to propagate your prized genetics.



# Tissue-Culture Propagation

How to put evo-devo to work for you. *By Greg Green*

**I**n plants as well as in animals, developmental biology is regulated by a DNA sequence known as a *homeobox*, which controls an organism's development by using a small set of instructions recombined in different ways to allow cells to form complex structures.

For example, the paradigm for flowering is called the "ABC model," which simply means that there are three classes of homeotic genes responsible for the total expression of a floral cluster: Class A and B operate on the outer whorls, Class C on the inner whorls. Class A alone works on sepals, but A and B combine for petals. B and C work together to produce stamens, while C alone works on carpels. Also, C suppresses A in the inner whorls, while A suppresses C in the outer whorls. This is all part of a spectrum of homeotic genes that work much the same way in floral development as similar genes (known as "Hox genes") work in animal embryos.

The ABC model has since been expanded to the "ABCE model" to include an additional E gene needed for floral development. (There's a D gene that was discovered before E, but it has to do with ovule specification.) This new model is also referred to as the "quartet model," while the type of homeobox is called a "MADS-box." It is believed that hundreds

of MADS-boxes are responsible for coordinating development in plants. It's all part of the rapidly expanding field of evolutionary developmental biology, or "evo-devo" for short.

So thanks to this field of microbiology, we're now in a position to learn something about the benefits of micropropagation when it comes to cultivating cannabis. It's been known for some time that cells can live outside the organism they're taken from, depending on the cell type and the environment they're moved into. This process of removing cells from an organism and maintaining them independently is called "tissue culture." The cells must be kept in a medium that supplies them with all of the chemicals they need for their developmental biology to continue—and when plant cells are used, we call this process "plant tissue culture."

In the early days of tissue culture back in the late 19th century, cells from organisms were kept alive by finding the right combination of growth medium and substrate chemicals. By the start of the 21st century, scientists had not only found ways to keep cells alive in substrates, but also to *grow* the cells in them. This astonishing fact means that cells contain enough information to form more complex multicellular structures in vitro—and, even more importantly, that Noah's

Ark can now be reduced to a roomful of manageably sized boxes ... not just theoretically, but *literally*.

In fact, it is now eminently possible to store every known cannabis strain on just a handful of trays; you could also ask someone to send you a whole seed bank's worth of genetics in one small pack. Most importantly, by properly maintaining tissue-culture dishes, you can create a virtually immortal culture of plant cells.

The key to tissue culture is maintaining the proper environment and using good cell samples. Your donor plant selection is crucial here, because your chosen plant's genetics will continue throughout the cell-culture line, and no other genes can invade that population except by mutation—but these will be mostly neutral mutations that don't change the plant in any significant way.

Maintaining your plant stock via tissue culture requires cell cloning and clone expansion. Any such culture can be grown into a fully mature and flowering female cannabis plant (assuming that you started with a female donor). The best part is that this can all be done using a limited number of cheap, readily available materials. As with cloning, practice is needed to get an unfamiliar process right—but once you know what you're doing, it's a simple process to continue.



**Clockwise from above: Tissue samples can be stored for up to six months before propagating; all you need to clone for tissue culture is a small sample of leaf; the TC technique creates complete uniformity in flowering plants as seen in these Granddaddy Purple adults.**

### The Ins and Outs of Tissue Culture

As with cloning, selecting the right mother plant for tissue culture means first gaining experience with the mom to determine that she's the one you want to propagate. Once you've selected the mother, she becomes the donor plant, at which point you simply clip a clean, healthy leaf from your chosen mom. (The size of the leaf will depend on how many tissue cultures you want to make.) It's important to clean the leaf of any contaminants, as tissue culture will also cultivate spores and microorganisms—especially molds and fungi—and washing the leaf prevents that from happening.

In general, maintaining cleanliness is important to keep anything other than the plant tissue from growing inside the chamber. You'll also want to wash your hands—and while latex gloves aren't a necessity, the less you handle the inside

of the tissue culture, the less likely you are to introduce bacteria into the grow medium.

Cleaning the leaf's surface is very important and requires some attention: By not skimping on this part of the process, you'll substantially increase your chances of success. Polysorbate 20—more commonly known as Tween 20 or Alkest TW—is the best detergent for this type of cleaning, since it efficiently reduces binding affinities at the leaf surface. After the leaf has been cleaned, it should be prepared in ethyl alcohol or sodium hypochlorite. Most of these sterilization products are already diluted, but you may want to dilute them more, and you shouldn't keep the leaf in the solution for more than 10 to 30 minutes. If you can't get these products, you could also try something like Clorox, though you might have better results using deionized water.

A laminar flow hood is usually an industrial laboratory-grade unit designed for housing chemicals and tissue cultures. Basically, it's a box with a HEPA filter serving as one wall, and with a fan mounted on the top panel through a small inlet. A laminar flow hood is the perfect environment for starting off tissue cultures. While there's no need to prepare the tissue culture inside a sterilized chamber using latex gloves taped to two holes cut in the sides, you could always give this method a shot if you feel so inclined. You can even make your own laminar flow hood at some stage, but starting off simply with a plastic Tupperware container to hold the tissue-culture dishes isn't a bad idea, and it will allow you to upgrade your operation as you gain experience. At the same time, the indoor mushroom cultivation industry has devoted a lot of effort to the construction of laminar flow hoods, so you'll certainly reap the benefits from using one (and if you find a lot of contamination in your tissue-culture projects, you'll definitely need one). As stated earlier, you can always make your own inexpensive DIY version, though you'll still likely have to spend some money on the HEPA filter.

Next you'll need a sterile scalpel to cut the leaf up into small sections (called the "explants"). Some people use tweezers to manipulate these small explants after they've been cut, but it's quite easy to damage the leaf surface and destroy huge amounts of stomata simply by moving them with tweezers; lifting the explants up from below with a spatula is a much gentler method. The point is, whichever method you use, handle the explants with care, as lots of surface damage will destroy your work before it even reaches the substrate.

Once they're taken, the explants must be placed into the tissue-culture medium. It's best to buy a single bottle of tissue-culture agar rather than the packs that require you to combine a gelling agent with a blank-powder formulation, because in the latter case you'll need to mix it using laboratory-grade equipment and will likely need access to a pressure-cooker sterilizer. But these aren't really necessary for domestic tissue culture—a single bottle of agar (and following the concentrations on the label, if any) should be enough.

The best type of agar to get is one specifically prepared for plant tissue culture. You'll soon find that there's a diverse range of agar formulations developed

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for different species, but a general-purpose agar medium for plant tissue culture should be sufficient. These usually contain primary, secondary and micronutrients, growth hormones, thiamine, nicotinic acid and riboflavin. It's important to make sure that the medium's pH doesn't range too far outside 5.5 (a pH of 6 or 7 is fine.) Once you've settled on the agar, then the medium should always be kept at the pH for that particular product (though if you're not happy with the pH, you may wish to try a new agar brand, but it should still be at about 6).

If you're using Petri dishes, they should be cleaned as much as possible using the same detergent you used for the leaf surface before adding the agar. You can also use other types of containers such as tissue-culture vessels, test tubes, jars and bottles, as long as they're clear and transparent. (There's a high-end vessel available called the Magenta GA7, but it's only used for advanced tissue culture, which makes it quite expensive.)

Cell cloning or clone expansion is basically the whole point of tissue culture: All this means is that you keep on multiplying the tissue cultures exponentially. You can buy trays with more than one well to put each explant in; some formats will hold up to 24 explants. You'll need to check the well diameter and growth area to make sure there's enough space to work with, so be sure to look into these details before you order them. Also, you don't have to use only one explant per container or well; if there's room for more explants, you can certainly add more—but remember that root growth will occur, so you'll want to get the explants out of the medium before their roots tangle.

Whatever container you use, you'll also need to make sure that it can be closed with a permeable lid. (If the lid isn't permeable, then your explants and plants will die.) If you don't have access to a permeable lid, you can also use laboratory stretch film. This film will cling to the outside of dishes, but you'll need to perforate it quite a few times using a sterilized pin.

Basically, this is all you really need to start the explants off. Once they're in their medium and containers, they should grow with very little light. If you do want to add some light, the available window light is fine (or else a very low-wattage fluorescent). The problem with using a grow light is that you may end up exposing the explants to too much heat;

this is hardly ideal and can cause the explants to fail. You may find that simply putting them on a shelf in a room that receives window light is sufficient. Some explants start better in darkness—again, it depends on the strain, the condition of the explants and the growing medium. Some people have stored their tissue cultures away in a box and found that the explants were able to grow; even so, at some stage you'll have to move them to a light source or they will fail.

Unfortunately, there's no one way to get this right except through trial and error—and some of the explants *will* fail, so you'll need to work with a selection of five to 10 when experimenting with conditions; this will allow you to try them out under different environments and see which one works best. But again, simply putting the explants on a shelf is likely all you'll need when starting out.



Preparing for tissue culture requires a clean and sterile environment.

### The Big Picture

When it comes to tissue culture, there is good news and bad news. The bad news is that, out of all the different ways to propagate a plant from seed or clone, tissue culture takes the longest to start out. Most explants require about a month before they begin to show visible signs of growth, and some may take even longer. Though, if you don't see roots after a month you may want to change your method. Usually, the cells start dividing and the explants begin growing within the first few weeks, but because this is happening on a micro-level, it takes time to see. So while it's much like rooting clones, it takes a lot longer because you

also have to *grow* the clone.

The other big problem is that you ideally need to maintain a pathogen-free environment, which isn't always possible in a non-laboratory setting (i.e., your home). There will almost always be some contamination problems such as fungi and bacteria, which thrive in the tissue culture's environment, but you can reduce these or even stop them altogether with a better quality laminar flow hood.

Now here's the good news: This type of mass multiplication of plants from a single source can end up becoming a whole new grow venture unto itself—and once you get the process down, you can easily take just a leaf from someone's plant and have a whole basement full of that strain within a year. Talk about a game changer!

Remember, multicellularity doesn't

just spontaneously appear. It's an intricate journey, sometimes undertaken with the simplest of genetic toy boxes (or, in this case, MADS-boxes), with the same genes appearing in different combinations and shaping different parts. This evolutionary tendency is part of the biological rhythm of life, the very foundation of existence for many living things. And it's by understanding this process that we can explain why tissue culture works.

One of the favorite catchphrases of the cannabis community has been that "it all starts with a single seed." Maybe now we should change that to read: It all starts with a single *cell*. ✨



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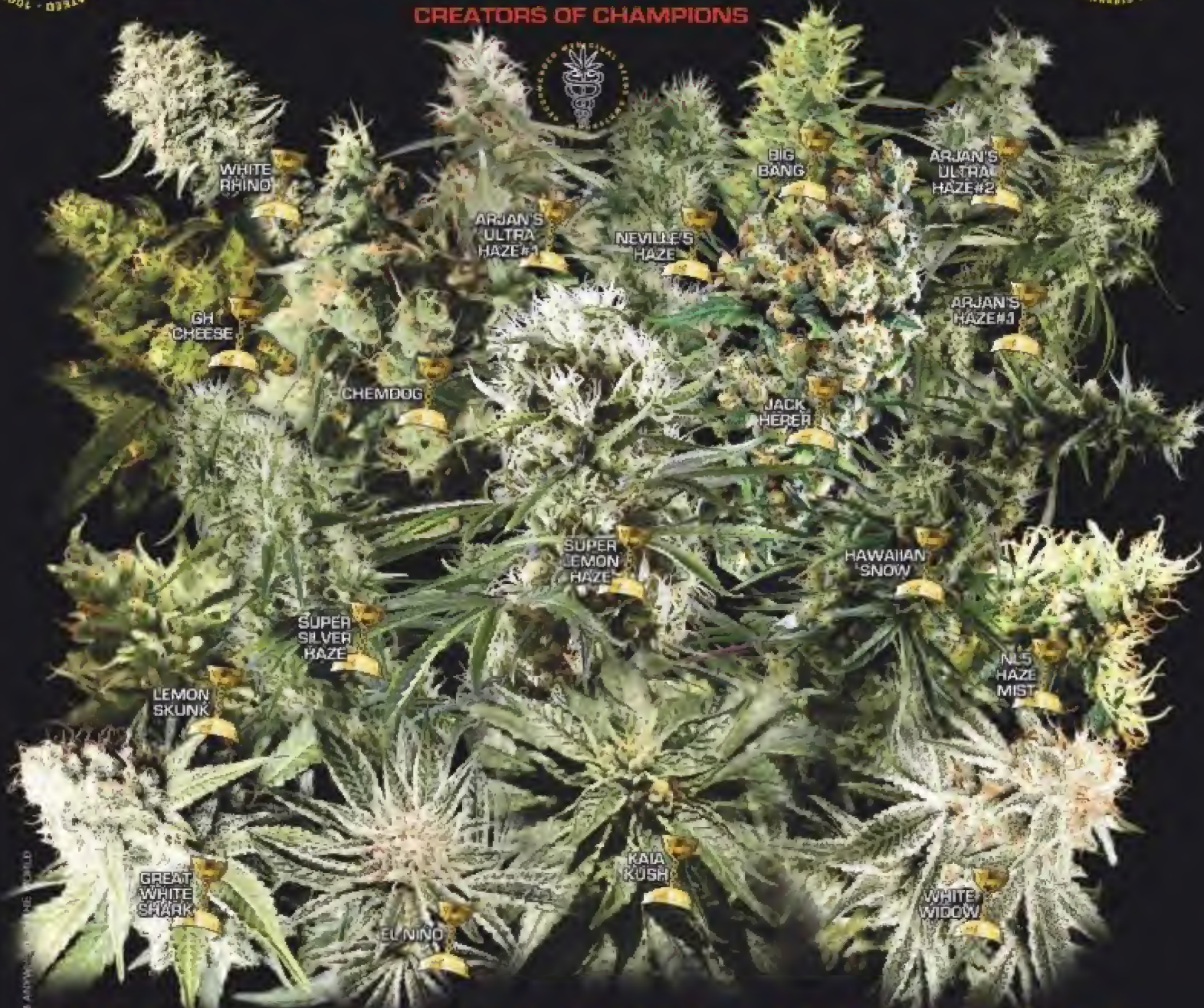
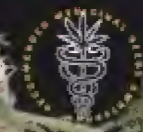


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The character of Walter White in *Breaking Bad* is a far cry from how audiences should know Bryan Cranston.



by DAN SKYE

# BRYAN CRANSTON

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

**W**ATCHING *BREAKING BAD* IS A VISCERAL EXPERIENCE. NOW ENTERING ITS FIFTH AND FINAL SEASON, THE SHOW HAS FORCED ITS LOYAL VIEWERS TO WITNESS THE SLOW TRANSFORMATION OF WALTER WHITE FROM A CANCER-STRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER TO A MACHIAVELLIAN METH KINGPIN, OUTSMARTING PROFESSIONAL DRUG CARTELS AND BATTLING HIS COMPETITORS TO THE DEATH.

IT'S A ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF A SHOW, WITH ONE BIG DIFFERENCE: ON A ROLLER COASTER, YOU CAN AT LEAST SEE THE TRACKS AHEAD. ON *BREAKING BAD* (AMC), THE AUDIENCE NEVER SEES WHAT'S COMING—EVER. AS BRYAN CRANSTON OBSERVES, THE SHOW'S FANS ARE "ON THIS JOURNEY THAT THEY OFTEN DON'T WANT TO GO ON. BUT THEY HAVE NO CHOICE, BECAUSE WE'VE HOOKED 'EM."

CRANSTON IS THE REMARKABLY SAVVY ACTOR WHO ANCHORS ALL THIS MADNESS. BEST KNOWN BEFORE THE ADVENT OF *BREAKING BAD* AS THE DEMENTED DENTIST IN *SEINFELD* AND THE DAD ON *MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE*, CRANSTON'S SEARING PERFORMANCE AS WALTER WHITE HAS EARNED HIM THREE CONSECUTIVE EMMY AWARDS.

*High Times* CAUGHT UP WITH THE GENIAL ACTOR NEAR HIS HOME IN HOLLYWOOD. HE GREW UP HERE AND WATCHED WITH AVID INTEREST AS THE CALIFORNIA CANNABIS SCENE EVOLVED. AND THOUGH HE DOESN'T PARTAKE OF POT IN ANY FORM, HE SPEAKS OUT FIRMLY AND INTELLIGENTLY IN SUPPORT OF LEGALIZING MARIJUANA.

**So you grew up here in Southern California.**

I did. I was raised not too far from where we are right now—a little suburb of LA called Canoga Park. In this valley, there were miles and miles of emptiness. We'd ride our bikes and go into ditches and washes—I mean, it was *great*.

**Was that a pretty normal childhood for you?**

Well, "normal" is what you think it is. It's funny how

people are—you assume that the way you were raised is the way that *everybody* was raised. I remember when I was doing *Malcolm in the Middle*, we'd get letters, and there would be comments about the mom, who would walk around the house naked. People would say, "It's not real, it can't happen, mothers wouldn't do that." But there were just as many people writing: "Omigod! I've never seen anything on television like this. My mom and

dad walked around the house naked!" The letters made me realize that "normalcy" is a subjective term.

**Speaking of normalcy, is it true you studied police science?**

My brother joined the LAPD Explorers. I don't really know why he joined; I guess he just had this impulse. But he went to the LAPD Academy eight Saturdays in a row and studied police work and underwent physical training and drills. The first summer that he was a member, they went to Japan, and I was so envious. The second summer, they went to Hawaii, and I'm thinking: "As soon as I'm 16, I'm joining so I can travel." It was just a matter of fact that I'd go to the academy and do the training for eight weeks. Sure enough, I'm 16 and I graduate from the academy No. 1 in my class. I discovered that I was good at police work—I didn't particularly like it, but I was good. My whole family, being of good working-class stock, said: "You find something you're good at, you go after it."

**So you weren't a law-and-order guy: "I gotta be a policeman?"**

No, no—but I *was* good at it. So, at that tender age, I was planning my life and thought, "Okay, that's what I'll do." My first year, we went to Europe for over three weeks. We went to Germany and Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland ...

**Our tax dollars at work! I'm not sure we like this idea ...**

[*Laughing*] No, no, no—it wasn't like that: Every kid had to come up with a certain amount of money, and then we were guests. We got a special deal on flights; every police department in every city hosted us. They'd put us up in halls, and there'd be bunk beds and we had sleeping bags.

**Do you remember much of**

**your training?**

Whenever I'm doing a character where I'm playing a cop—or, in this case, a criminal—I actually know something about how the police would approach a house. I do have some memory of that.

**Everybody loved you as the oddball dentist in *Seinfeld*, and you played a pretty regular dad on *Malcolm in the Middle*. So how did you get cast as the complex Walter White?**

I can't say it was written for me, but I did cross [show creator] Vince Gilligan's mind when he was developing this. I worked for Vince in an episode of *The X-Files*. I played a horrible person—bigoted, angry, anti-Semitic, anti-*everything*. Yet the audience had to feel some sympathy for him. That's a dangerous thing to watch, but it does give insight to the nuanced talent of Vince Gilligan.

"What you lack in experience, you fill those gaps with imagination to justify this person."

*Breaking Bad* came up about a year and a half after the end of *Malcolm in the Middle*, and I was in the right place at the right time. It was the best one-hour pilot script I've ever read, and I went after it. When you read something that's really well constructed and full of conflict and pathos, you get excited. You also don't have to work that hard, because you *dream* about it—your character *seeps* into you.

Literally, I woke up a

couple of times with insights about Walter. When I had my meeting, it wasn't an audition—it was: "I think he should weigh this much. I think he should look like this. I think this and this and this." And I seemed to be hitting base hits—Vince said, "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!" By the time I left, I think I was his choice.

**The character of Walter White has reached a critical point in the show now: Will he embrace evil, or will he somehow redeem himself?**

There's this assumption that the lead character in a show needs to be likable or sympathetic. People ask, "How am I supposed to still like you?" I answer, "Are you supposed to still like me?"

It's risky, what we did in the opening episodes: We *hooked* the audience. Walter's a good guy, trying to do right for his family. He's a teacher who's put upon by the system: He doesn't have adequate health care, he needs a second job to pay for his special-needs son. He's an everyman who's been dealt a bad hand, *and* he's going to die in two years. Each one of those things sank that hook deeper and deeper into the audience. Once they completely bit, we yanked and took them on this journey that they often don't want to go on. But they have no choice, because we've hooked 'em. We've got 'em, and now they can't spit it out.

**Laurence Olivier said that acting is just pretending. But other actors experience roles emotionally: Martin Sheen had a nervous breakdown on the set of *Apocalypse Now*, Al Pacino was deeply affected by playing Michael Corleone in *The Godfather Part II*. What's playing Walter White like?**

There's the so-called British way of approaching characters from the outside in, and there's the new school, the Actors' Studio way of going from the inside. But I



Co-star Aaron Paul draws down on Cranston.

"DEA chemists came onboard as consultants and taught Aaron Paul and me how to make crystal meth."

think acting has to do with how much you can relate to a character. If I'm playing a serial killer—wow, that's really outside of me. I have to do research to figure out who that person is, how I can justify him. The one thing you don't want to do is judge a character. You're not standing *outside* of Walter White—you're taking things moment to moment, behaving as that character would behave given each set of circumstances.

**But does the character affect you psychologically at all?**

No. The palette of an actor is experience and imagination. What you lack in experience, you fill those gaps with imagination to justify this person.

**You're dealing with a subject matter—meth production—that has never been dealt with so comprehensively before. How has law enforcement reacted?**

When we first did the pilot and were going to series, I was concerned that people not see the show as glorifying drug use or its manufacturing—but I also didn't want

to be on the other side condemning it in easy, moralistic terms. We wanted to create a situation that tells the tale of this man and his decision-making. Let the audience decide how they feel about it.

**When you appeared on Conan, you and he pretended to eat "blue ice"—the name for the meth Walter makes in the show. You guys joked that it's "going to be a great show now." Was there any backlash to that?**

Good question, because I *was* concerned about that. But let's back up a step: I've never been confronted in any interview by anyone saying that I'm doing society a disservice. I think people get it. My contention is that it's *circumstantial*: If Walter White were a math teacher instead of a chemistry teacher, he would've gotten into the same situation—he would have developed a way to count cards or something that he knows in that arena. It's just circumstantial that he's a chemist. Audiences *are* sophisticated; they're smart. Joking about the product that I make on the show doesn't

mean that I think it's a great idea. We didn't get hammered for that.

**What research did you do for this role?**

The research I did was chemistry.

**Did you talk to meth addicts?**

No, because Walter White doesn't know about that; his world is chemistry. At the beginning of the show, I followed a USC professor around—the head of the department. I tried to learn the sensibility of it, the nomenclature, what the different devices are used for. In fact, he pointed out one device used only for titration and another used for boiling. I said, "I think we have that wrong in the script."

I showed him and he said, "Yeah, that's wrong. You wouldn't do that."

I called Vince right away and told him we got it wrong. The people who would really know—chemists and other people of that ilk—are maybe a quarter percent of the audience, but those details are very important to us.

**Is it true that the DEA are technical consultants on this?**

Yes. The situation is this: We informed them—with all due respect and consideration—that we're doing this show, and "Would you like to be a part of it in a consultancy in order to make sure that we get it right?"

They had the choice to say, "We don't want anything to do with it." But they saw that it might be in their best interest to make sure that we do it correctly. So DEA chemists came onboard as consultants and taught Aaron Paul and me how to make crystal meth.

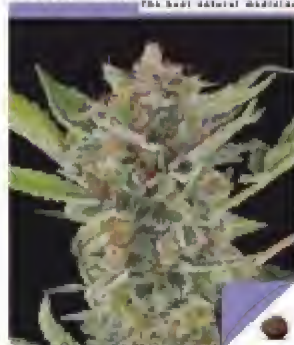
**Wow ... could you do that in real life?**

If I was trying and used all my memory prowess, I still couldn't—I couldn't retain all of the details that are

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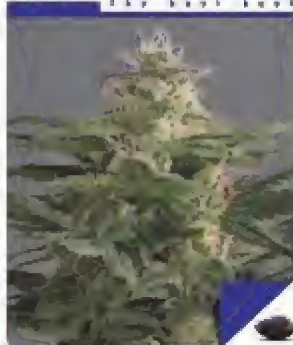
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necessary and very specific. It was *very* in-depth. Of course, we're dealing with higher quality, because that's the only way that Walter White would be involved in it.

**You grew up in California during pot's ascendance here. What's your stance?**

I went on Bill Maher's show and publicly said, "Legalize marijuana." Marijuana started out with a bad connotation, as you know—but to me, marijuana is no different than wine. It's a drug of choice. It's meant to alter your current state—and that's not a bad thing. It's ridiculous that marijuana is still illegal. We're still fighting for it.

**Do you use it?**

No, pot has always had the effect of making me sleepy. I have a friend who will smoke—or suck on a pot lollipop—on a daily basis. It not only doesn't put him to sleep, he cleans the entire house! He goes to work, no ill effects. It's just his metabolism. Everyone's body is different. I'm usually very active throughout the day; certainly when I'm shooting *Breaking Bad*, by the time I go home after 14 hours, I take a shower, hit the pillow and I'm out—I'm done. But if I ever couldn't sleep, give me a hit or a little bite of an edible and I'd be out in 15 minutes.

It comes down to individual decision-making. There are millions of people who smoke pot on a social basis and don't become criminals. So stop with that argument—it doesn't work.

**Your daughter is in college now. How did you approach the topic of drugs with her?**

Again, it's about decision-making. My wife and I handled it that way: We said, "Look, you know we trust you. You make your own decisions; we know you're smart. If you go out and you want to drink and smoke, be in an



Hanging out near his home in Hollywood.

environment where you feel safe and comfortable—and don't drive!"

I see all these celebrities who go out and either get high or get drunk and then drive. It's like, "What is *wrong* with you? You have all the means—if you want to go out and party, go out and party. But why can't you hire a driver for the night? C'mon!"

I don't know ... I don't get it. It's about being smart.

**You're one of those lucky actors who, in his fifties, is reaching the pinnacle of his career. Can you actually plan an acting career?**

Yes. Before you have success as an actor—or as any artist—you take a job because you need a job; you need to pay your rent. There's nothing wrong with that—I never condemn anyone. However, I do suggest that if you're successful, you set yourself up so that you don't have to make artistic decisions based on

"Millions of people smoke pot on a social basis and don't become criminals. So stop with that argument."

financial need. Try to free yourself of that.

Follow the well-written word. If an actor can develop a keen sense for assessing the material and say, "This TV show is really a horrible, stupid show, while this play that pays me nothing is really good," then you can hopefully find the courage to accept the job that is better for your artistic spirit. If you do that crappy TV show, you're part of that; the stink is partly on you.

I'll give you an example: My agent sent me this script for this movie called *Little Miss Sunshine*. They said, "There's no role in it for you, but we think it's going to be a great film." I read it in one sitting, and I thought it was terrific—if done well, it had a chance to be a really wonderful film. I wanted to get in on this. My agent said, "No, Steve Carell and Greg Kinnear are already cast, and you're too young for the grandfather. There's no role in it for you. You can't play the gay boyfriend—you're too old for that."

And I said, "What about Greg Kinnear's book agent?"

My agent said, "He's only in two scenes. You'd work one day."

I said, "It doesn't matter. It's really well-written, and I want to be a part of things that are really well-written."

So I went to meet them, and I pitched my take on how the character should be. I tried to counter the desperation of Greg Kinnear's character. I was flippant, and it seemed to work. And I've received so many accolades for that performance. It's not flashy; it's just this little slice. But because everybody loved that movie, people say: "You were fantastic!" This is interesting to me, because it didn't warrant *that* kind of hyperbole. But because they loved the whole, that tide raises all boats.

**You're aware, of course, that *High Times* named *Breaking Bad* "the best show ever"?**

That's so cool. That's huge!

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[*Laughing*] We just see ourselves as a conduit for trying to bring people together. The readers of *High Times* and the readers of *New York* magazine—c'mon, can't we all just get along? 🌿



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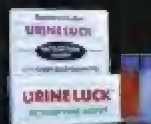
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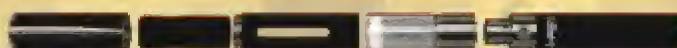


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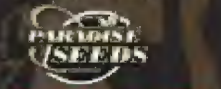


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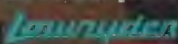
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CHRONIC  
WHITE RUSSIAN  
DOUBLE DUTCH  
WALOCK  
MOTIVATION



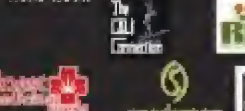
**FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE**  
CRIMEA BLUE  
DR GRINSPORN  
ESD  
NIGHTSHADE  
PINEAPPLE CHUNK  
RED DRAGON  
SWEET TOOTH  
TANGERINE DREAM  
VANILLA KUSH  
VIOLATOR KUSH  
LITTLE CHEESE (AUTO FLOWER)  
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (AUTO FLOWER)  
FLOWER POWER (AUTO FLOWER)  
CRITICAL RUSH  
SWEETH TOOTH (AUTO FLOWER)  
LIBERTY HAZE  
CRITICAL RAPIDO (AUTO FLOWER)  
BLUE MAMMOTH (AUTO FLOWER)



**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
PURPLE KUSH (AUTO FLOWER)  
RED DWARF (AUTO FLOWER)  
WHITE DWARF (AUTO FLOWER)



**REGULAR PACKS OF TEN**  
ORIGINAL GRAND DADDY PURPLE  
KENS KUSH



**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
CALIFORNIA HASH PLANT  
CLOUD 9  
CRITICAL JACK  
CRITICAL  
INDUSTRIAL PLANT  
FRUIT (AUTO FLOWER)  
HAZE (AUTO FLOWER)  
ROADRUNNER 2 (AUTO FLOWER)



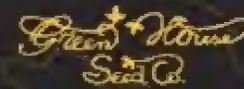
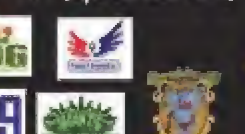
**FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE**  
CRITICAL  
EASY BUD (AUTO FLOWER)  
NORTHERN LIGHT  
NORTHERN LIGHT (AUTO FLOWER)  
POWER FLOWER  
ROYAL AUTOMATIC (AUTO FLOWER)  
ROYAL BLUEMATIC (AUTO FLOWER)  
SHINNING SILVER HAZE



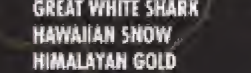
**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
A-TRAIN  
BURMESE KUSH  
KUSHAGE  
MK-ULTRA  
S.A.G.E.  
SAGE N SOUR  
**REGULAR PACKS OF TEN**  
DARKSTAR  
MENDOCINO MADNESS  
SHUNK XXX  
THE HOG



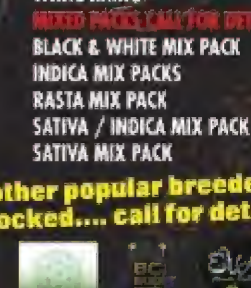
**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
CHEESE  
BLUE CHEESE  
SILVER CHEESE  
CHEESY DICK  
CRITICAL MASS  
S.A.S. (super automatic sativa)



**FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE**  
A.M.S.  
ARJANS HAZE #1  
ARJANS HAZE #2  
ARJANS HAZE #3  
ARJANS ULTRA HAZE #1  
ARJANS ULTRA HAZE #2  
ALASKA ICETHE CHURCH  
ARJANS STRAWBERRY HAZE  
BIG BANG  
BIG BANG (AUTO FLOWER)  
BUBBA KUSH  
CHEESE  
CHEM DOG  
DAMN SOUR  
DIAMOND GIRL  
EXODUS CHEESE  
EL NIÑO  
GREEN - O - MATIC (AUTO FLOWER)  
GREAT WHITE SHARK  
HAWAIIAN SNOW  
HIMALAYAN GOLD  
JACK HERER  
K-TRAIN  
KING KUSH  
KAIA KUSH  
KALASHNIKOVA  
LEMON SKUNK  
LADYBURN 1974  
MOBY DICK  
NEVILLES HAZE  
NL HAZE  
PUR KUSH  
SUPER SILVER HAZE  
SUPER LEMON HAZE  
TRAINWRECK  
THAI  
SUPER BUD  
SUPER CRITICAL  
SUPER CRITICAL (AUTO FLOWER)  
WHITE WIDOW  
WHITE RHINO



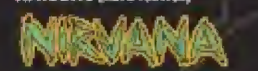
**MIXED PACKS CALL FOR DETAILS**  
BLACK & WHITE MIX PACK  
INDICA MIX PACK  
RASTA MIX PACK  
SATIVA / INDICA MIX PACK  
SATIVA MIX PACK



**FEMINIZED PACKS OF SIX**  
60 DAY WONDER (AUTO FLOWER)  
CATARACT KUSH  
CONFIDENTIAL CHEESE  
CHOCOLOPE  
KANDY KUSH  
KUSHBERRY  
OG KUSH  
RECON  
SOUR CREAM  
SILVER BUBBLE  
SOUR DIESEL  
SOUR KUSH  
KOSHER KUSH  
MATAIN KUSH  
SILVER KUSH



**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
BCN DIESEL (AUTO FLOWER)  
MATARO BLUE  
MATARO BLUE (AUTO FLOWER)  
WHITE DOMINA (AUTO FLOWER)  
FLASH (AUTO FLOWER)  
AFRODITE (AUTO FLOWER)



**REGULAR PACKS OF TEN**  
AK-48  
B52  
BIG BUD  
BLUE MYSTIC  
BUBBLELICIOUS  
CALIFORNIA ORANGE  
EARLY BUD  
EARLY MISTY  
ICE  
WHITE RHINO  
WHITE WIDOW



**FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE**  
COLOSSUS (AUTO FLOWER)  
CYCLOPS (AUTO FLOWER)  
GIGANTES (AUTO FLOWER)  
GOLIATH (AUTO FLOWER)  
HERCULES (AUTO FLOWER)  
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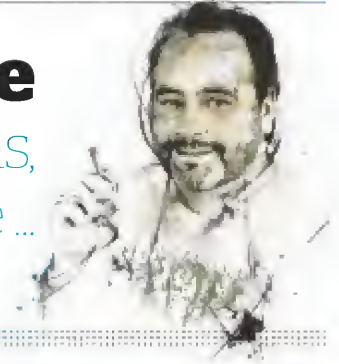
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# Expert Grow Advice

Removing leaves, trimming buds, improving soils, groundhog remedies and more ...



Send your cannabis cultivation questions to [deardanko@hightimes.com](mailto:deardanko@hightimes.com).

Fan leaves absorb the light that powers flower production.

SUBJECT: **Taking Off Dead Leaves**  
FROM: **Smokey McBongwater**

🌿 I've heard from some of my grower friends that it's best to clip off dead or necrotic leaves, but I prefer to let them fall off naturally (letting nature take its course). I believe that by cutting off dead or necrotic leaves, my plants' growth will be inhibited, and they always seem to stop growing (or slow considerably) when I do this. Who is right?

Dear Smokey,  
Leaving on dead or dying leaves simply isn't a good idea at all: They do nothing to help the plant grow and actually hinder its growth potential in a variety of ways. The most important one is that insects will attack plants at their weakest points. This is the reason that sticky traps are yellow: The insects' tiny brains are wired to be attracted to the color of leaves that are beginning to suffer, and these become their home base from which to strike out at the stronger parts of the plant. So my recommendation is to take off any damaged, dying or dead leaves as soon as you see them and discard them immediately.



*Danko Tip:* Leaves with burnt tips are typically signs of over-fertilization. Flush your soil with plain water and let it run out from the bottom of your containers.

These vegetating plants are ready to begin their flowering stage.



SUBJECT: **Genetic Rift**

FROM: **Raub Kradle**

I have a flowering room with about a dozen plants and five different strains. I also have it staged at intervals so that I can harvest two plants every two weeks or so, meaning they're all in different stages of flower. They all seemed to have their own characteristics when I started them from seed—and then, over time, after cloning all the plants, they've now begun to look the same all the way up to the final week of flowering, and then I can tell which ones they are by the buds. My question is: Can different strains slowly take on the characteristics of the other plants around them and begin to look alike?

Dear Raub,

The short answer is no, plants do not take on the characteristics of other plants around them. Rather, these traits are inherently genetic ones, meaning they're encoded deep inside the DNA of the various strains. A particular cultivator's growing techniques can tend to make certain varieties seem similar, but this is caused by using the exact same nutrients and feeding regimens, and the growing environment can also play a role (e.g., buds grown in a dank, humid basement can all tend to take on a musky odor and flavor). It seems more likely to me that you've possibly mislabeled the plants and cloned out ones that were identical to each other instead of the variety you had hoped for. Hope that helps!

SUBJECT: **Big Yields**

FROM: **D. Garza**

I've heard you say on your podcast that it's possible to obtain yields of ¼ lb. organic or 1 lb. hydro per plant in 5-gallon buckets. What amount of light is required, and would I want them to veg in the 5-gallon pot or transplant them to it for flower?

Dear D.,

The amount of light I recommend in order to harvest the most bud per plant would be a 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH) light. These types of high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs are the most powerful commercially available grow lights on the market.

My recommendation is to vegetate the plant for at least four weeks in the 5-gallon container you plan to flower it in. This will build up the largest root system without the plant suffering from transplant shock (which can stunt growth for up to a week or more). Keep in mind that plants grown in large containers (five gallons are the smallest I would recommend) will grow tall and bushy, so you must have enough vertical and horizontal space to accommodate them.

SUBJECT: **To Trim or Not to Trim**

FROM: **Polecat**

If you're producing a highly resinous strain and aren't concerned with the "marketability" of the final product, is there a downside to not trimming off the leaf matter closest to the colas? Seems like a waste of really good trichomes.

Dear Polecat,

I understand the temptation to keep the "sugar" leaves on the plant, and some folks argue that it also protects the buds. In my opinion, however, the less leaf, the better. If you keep your buds stored in airtight jars in a cool, dark place, they shouldn't suffer any damage that they would need protection from.

Any extra leaf—even those covered in trichomes—will make the joint, bong hit or vapor puff you take harsher and tarnish the flavor and experience of smoking your own homegrown stash. You can always easily make hashish or edibles from the leaves you trim off for a tasty concentrated treat. Take off the big fan leaves first and then the sugar leaves. Keep them separated; cook with the fan leaves and turn the closer trim into hash using a screen or some ice-water extraction bags and a press.

SUBJECT: **Cold Play**

FROM: **Swamp Boy**

I hate to have to disagree with you, Mr. Danko, but you answered a question from Montana by stating that cannabis will not tolerate frost. While it's true that many varieties suffer in cold weather, in some areas of the Northeast US, Canada and Montana, growers have selectively bred plants to tolerate the cold.

I myself have harvested plants high up in the Adirondack Mountains, the coldest place in the continental US, right through October and into early November. What's worse than frost is cold, damp weather above freezing, which promotes mold.

Dear Swamp Boy,



Thanks for the tip on cold-weather

**Cloud 9**




*Danko Tip:* Drooping leaves usually mean under-watered plants. Add a pH-balanced nutrient solution slowly to dried-out growing mediums.

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strains. I usually recommend that growers in tough climates seek out the strains adapted to those conditions. I've never seen cannabis plants that survived a serious frost, but I'll take your word for it, and I also commend the breeders who work to produce marijuana varieties that can withstand harsh weather and high altitudes. Canadian and Spanish seed banks in particular produce strains capable of toughing it out under difficult environmental conditions.

SUBJECT: **Pot Plot Partners**

FROM: **Blaazzr**

🌱 Funny question here: Say two people want to grow some pot, and one has the seeds and the other knows how to grow. What's the proper etiquette in this grower/seed provider relationship: Do we split everything 50-50? I have some rare seeds, but my potential partner is going to have to do almost all of the work, so he wants more than 50 percent. I've got land I could use, but it belongs to my family (who wouldn't approve) and I refuse to disrespect that.

Dear Blaazzr,

I would avoid any type of pot-growing partnership if at all possible; I've seen too many friendships ruined by the complications that arise when people go into the bud business together. Your potential partner is right: If he's doing all the work in his chosen grow space, he should definitely get a larger share of the returns. If all you're doing is providing the seeds, you should try to get a deal on the buds and clones produced, or just charge him what you think is a fair price for the beans beforehand. That way, neither party enters into the deal with unrealistic expectations, and you guys can remain friends. One caveat here: I've also seen plenty of pot partnerships that have worked for the better, but they all had one thing in common: All the details were worked out beforehand, without any vagueness about the terms of the agreement.

SUBJECT: **Parent Trouble**

FROM: **Brandon**

🌱 What do you suggest for someone who has parents that are strongly against marijuana? I'm trying not to go behind their backs, so I'd like to convince them that marijuana isn't bad.



Spider mite populations quickly grow out of control.

Dear Brandon,

While it seems quite obvious to you and me that marijuana has many beneficial aspects, it's still a tough thing for others to swallow. People of an older generation were taught to fear cannabis and pot users, and many have those beliefs strongly ingrained in them.

The best you can do is to tell your parents the truth as you know it and let them make their own decisions based on that. Do some serious research first ([norml.org](http://norml.org) is a great place to start) and get your arguments in order. We have the truth on our side, so don't get frustrated and certainly don't lecture them if they're not interested.

My own parents were very much against marijuana when I was younger. They were raised in the former Soviet Union to believe that all drugs are bad, and they saw very little difference between marijuana and heroin. Over the years, I've been able to sway their opinions quite drastically, and now they even have the occasional tokes with me on special occasions. In fact, my stepdad says it helps with his arthritis more than any pills he's ever tried.

You also have to consider the possibility that you won't be able to reach them. In the meantime, respect their home and honor their wishes for as long as you live under their roof. The good news is that one day soon, you'll move out and be living on your own, and you'll be free to make your own decisions about how you choose to live your life. Either way, stay strong—it gets better!

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*Danko Tip:* Indica-dominant strains tend to stretch less than *sativas* after flowering is induced; therefore, vegetate *indicas* longer before flowering.

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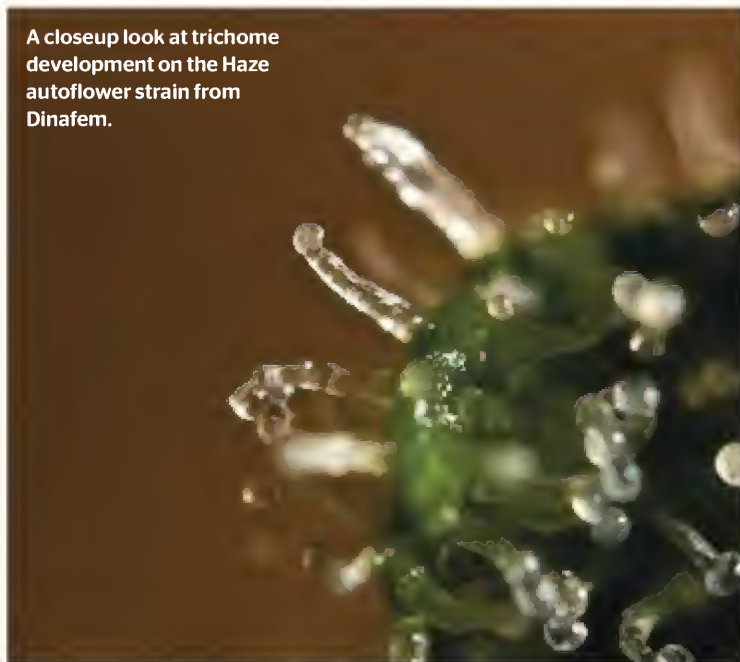
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We are very proud of another cup won by Warlock: The 'Hydra-Hash' made from 90% Warlock / 10% Haoma entered by 'House of the Great Gardener' from Vancouver-Island, Canada, won the second place in the concentrate category at the High Times Cannabis Cup 2011.

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A closeup look at trichome development on the Haze autoflower strain from Dinafem.



SUBJECT: **Soil Improvement**

FROM: **Craig**

Hey Danny, I'm a big fan of your *Free Weed* show on iTunes! I'm starting my own first-time grow here soon. I'm doing my seed plants outdoors, and the soil seems to be great for growing. Do you have any advice on what type of soil or nutrients I should use? Any other tips or advice would also be much appreciated.

Dear Craig,

Thanks for the kind words about the podcast! We're having a blast learning how to do radio and teaching people how to grow their own cannabis.

Even if your outdoor soil is rich in nutrients, it may be too compacted to grow out a proper outdoor pot plant. My suggestion is to dig a deep hole in your soil and dump a bunch of soilless mix into it. Blend the peat or coco-based bale of soilless mix together with your native soil and add some supplements such as seabird guano, greensand, manure and compost.

Each year, you can improve your soil mix by adding compost and mulch on top of it. There's no need to till your soil after the first time you dig the hole—in fact, you'll end up damaging the long micro-fiber strands of beneficial mycelium that help the roots with their nutrient uptake.

SUBJECT: **Gobbler's Knob**

FROM: **Doug**

How do I keep groundhogs from eating my plants?

Dear Doug,

The best thing to do is put up a fence, and make sure to dig it in at least a couple of feet deep as well. If a fence is out of the question or the garden is an outdoor guerrilla situation, you can surround the individual plants with some chicken wire (though be sure to dig it in at least 2 feet deep as well). I don't recommend using guns or traps because they're cruel, in my opinion, and can also bring unwanted attention to your plot. 🌱



4G

08:20 am

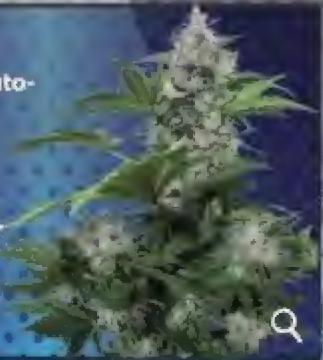
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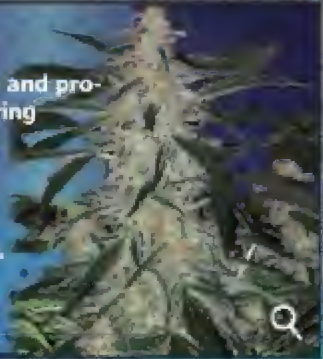
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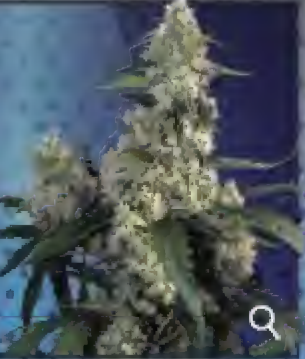


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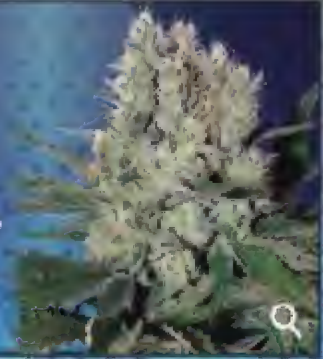
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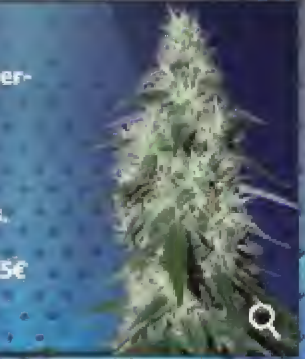
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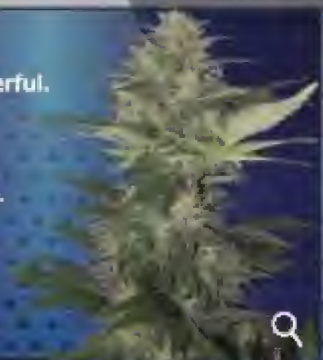
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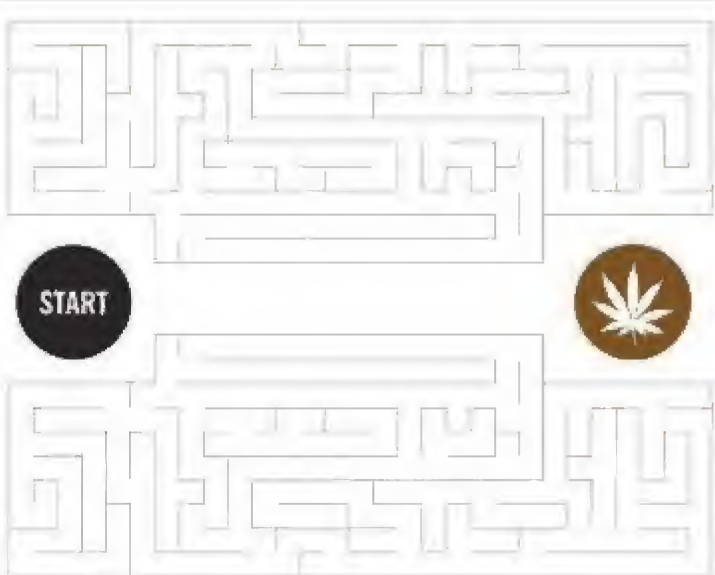
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I'm getting frustrated trying to repeal pot prohibition. We met with a state representative but can't seem to get anything on the ballot.

*Justine*

Hi Justine,  
 Take it one step at a time and realize that each bit of progress is worth celebrating. Look how far you've come: You mention "we." If you have a whole group in your state, that's amazing progress. Plus you've met with an elected official—that's awesome! Keep chipping away. Perhaps one city in your state is ripe for making possession a lowest-law-enforcement priority, and you can build from there. We're running a marathon, not a sprint. Be proud of all you've done so far.



Pot inspires seduction.

A bawdy story in *The Arabian Nights* was well known by 900 BCE.

Which has more protein, hemp seed or beef?

*C.H.*

Hi C.H,  
 Most lean beef is around 30 percent protein. Hemp seed is only about 25 percent, but hemp-seed meal is about 40 percent.

interfere with exercising, eating right, succeeding at a job you love, being connected to friends and available to family, while enjoying a leisure skill like writing or boating or drumming, then you're leading a good life and there's nothing to worry about.

How long have we known that cannabis is an aphrodisiac?

*Red M.*

On a scale from 0 to 10, how harmful is marijuana?

*Sam I.*

Hi Sam,  
 As Paracelsus said, "The dose makes the poison." Three hits before bed are unlikely to lead to much more than modest weight gain and a suppression of REM sleep (if you're an adult and have finished adult brain development), while a gram a day first thing in the morning is problematic for some. Here's my rule of thumb: If your pot use doesn't

Hi Red,  
 I imagine the first guy who tried it could give us some insight, but nothing on the subject was published prior to a bawdy story in *The Arabian Nights*, which was certainly well-known by 900 BCE and might even go as far back as 1200 BCE. ✨

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.*

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## The Coming Storm

Are the recent California dispensary busts a prelude to the dictatorship of pharmaceutical weed?

**M**ANY CANNABIS ACTIVISTS were surprised by the DEA's recent medical marijuana crack-down. After all, didn't President Obama instruct the Justice Department not to interfere with states that have medical marijuana laws? Why this sudden shift in policy aimed at shutting down major dispensaries and cultivation sites? The answer, I believe, might be Sativex.

Sativex was created in 1999 by GW Pharmaceuticals, a company founded by two biotech entrepreneurs in England. It has already broken ground by becoming the world's first multi-molecule medicine; all other modern medicines are refined into single molecules, while Sativex has two primary ingredients (and 420 molecules!). Delivered in the form of a mouth spray, Sativex is composed of natural cannabinoids and nothing else—a fixed dose, in fact, of 2.7 milligrams of THC and 2.5 milligrams of CBD—for a cost of about \$3 per spray or \$125 for a 50-spray bottle in Canada.

The rights to sell Sativex in the United States (currently the world's most valuable potential market) were purchased not too long ago by the Bayer Corporation, Germany's largest pharmaceutical company and formerly a division of IG Farben, which was Europe's biggest corporation during World War II and a primary corporate sponsor (and beneficiary) of Hitler's global conquests. Sativex has just been approved throughout most of Europe and is on the fast track at our own Food and Drug Administration right now.

So taking down the big cannabis dispensaries may well be part of a larger plan to force all legal medical

users to switch to Sativex as soon as the FDA grants its approval. If this plan is successful, it will arrive with a sudden fury, as all home cultivation will again become illegal everywhere. No doubt there are corporate interests who'd like to capture the billions currently escaping

the pharmaceutical industry thanks to the home cultivation of cannabis, and Sativex represents the first serious attempt to make that happen.

Expect a big deal to be made out of Sativex's delivery system. Unfortunately, most medical marijuana these days is smoked, and there's no good defense for using combustion as a

means of delivering medicine. The FDA will also claim that Sativex “doesn't get you high”—which may be true if users stick to the recommended dosage levels, but expect many users to amp those levels considerably, thus achieving the same effect as if they'd smoked a joint.

In fact, the actual cost of maintaining your high may not be significantly different between black market kind bud and legal Sativex. But will your doctor or health insurer sign off on your \$600-a-week Sativex habit? Also, Sativex will be marketed in the US as a better alternative than smoking cannabis, and that might even be true. But if history has taught us anything, it's that we can't trust the pharmaceutical industry.

Will the thousands of home growers across America surrender their gardens for a Sativex prescription? Will the federal government protect this corporate monopoly by sending in the police? The cannabis law reform movement must get moving on complete legalization, before Bayer is handed this monopoly on medical marijuana. Once that happens, every cannabis garden in the country will be in jeopardy. ✨



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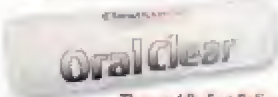


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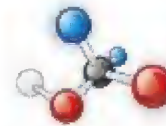
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**W**HEN SOMETHING AIN'T broke, don't fix it—and since our first Medical Cannabis Cup at Denver's EXDO Event Center ran so smoothly last spring, we returned again this year to repeat our past success. There were a few differ-



ences, however, that made this visit to the Mile High City far more memorable.

First off, on Friday night (4/20), I attended the premiere party for Hitman Glass' new project (and accompanying art book) *Chess Pieces* at Illuzion Glass Galleries. Conceived by Hitman owner Dougie Fresh, the show featured an impressive array of smokable chess sets commissioned from more than 30 of the country's top artists—most of whom were in attendance to display their work. It was by far the most unique and ambitious project of its kind ever executed.

Next, on Saturday afternoon, I moderated a panel entitled "To Dab or Not to Dab: The Pros, Cons and Possible Dangers of BHO." Participants included a medical marijuana reviewer from the Denver alternative press (*Westword's* William Breathes), two respected doctors (endocannabinoid expert Dr. Bob Melamede and Amerimed Colorado's Dr. Alan Shackelford), and two cannabis concentrate makers (Daniel de Sailles of Top Shelf Extracts and Selecta Nikka T of Essential Extracts). We discussed the effects of butane on weed and the human body, the safety and efficacy of BHO, and the possible public relations issues associated with their use. It was a well-attended and fruitful discussion—one that I'll be addressing in greater depth with a feature in our next issue.

Then, during the awards show on Sunday night, I hosted a mini-pageant to choose our our Miss High Times for 2012. Four of the year's finalists were there, as well as past Miss HT winners Sarah (2007), Brittany (2010) and Clazina (2011), all of whom joined me onstage to crown our new "smokesmodel": Emily Aryn from Lansing, MI.

But for me, the most powerful part of the weekend was on Friday afternoon at the 4/20 rally in Civic Center Park. The event was the largest of its kind in the nation (reportedly a record attendance of almost 60,000 people) and fea-

tured a hemp fashion show, performances by rappers Hypnaotic and Too Short and speeches from several activists, including Richard Eastman, Rob Corry and—I'm proud to add—yours truly. Just before 4 p.m., rally organizers Tiny Martinez and Miguel Lopez welcomed me to the stage and I addressed the enormous crowd.

"I'm so honored to be speaking here today, and so thrilled to look out at this sea of stoners celebrating our culture! You know, it wasn't so long ago in this country that it was considered acceptable by society to discriminate against African-Americans—to deny them the right to vote, to segregate them, arrest them, even lynch them. But then, in 1955, a woman named Rosa Parks said, 'No, I refuse to sit in the back of the bus—I have some dignity,' and the civil rights movement was born. It happened again in 1969, when police in riot gear stormed into the Stonewall club and tried to arrest a bunch of homosexuals just for having fun and being part of their culture. They fought back against those cops because the law was unjust, and the gay rights movement was born."

"When is our Rosa Parks moment? When is our Stonewall moment? When do we say, 'Enough! We've had it with this discrimination! You're oppressing a culture, and we're sick and tired of it!' Colorado, America is counting on you to set an example for the rest of the country to follow. So this November, all of you motherfuckers

better get out there to the polls, vote for legalization in 2012, and send Washington a message they'll never forget—that we're pot smokers, and we vote, too!"


At that moment, as the cheers from thousands of my fellow stoners washed over me, I truly felt a mile high. ✨

Watch the speech here:  
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# Presidential Pot

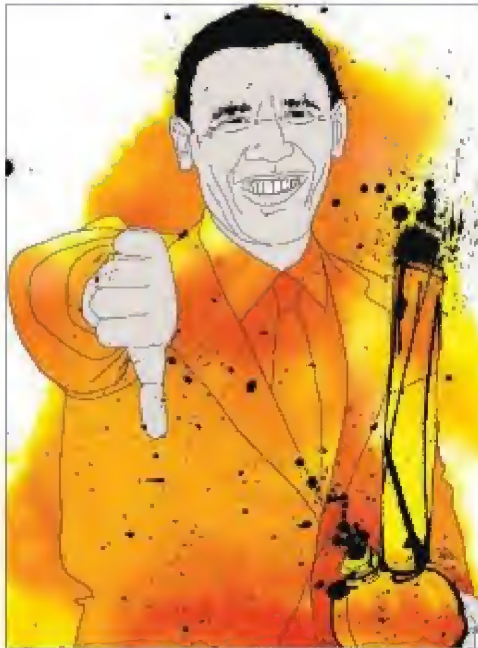
The 'choice' is ours ... and that's the problem!

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).

**A**NOTHER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION cycle is upon us, and the choice for cannabis consumers is both stark and unsettling. Under our current political duopoly, in which the Democrats and Republicans jointly control our nation's laws and policies (with little input from Libertarians, the Green Party, etc.), this year's likely standard-bearers—President Barack Obama and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney—provide vexing contrasts in their respective histories, views and stated policies regarding cannabis.

President Obama has been a politically pragmatic flip-flopper on three key issues. On numerous occasions as a senator from Illinois (who famously wrote of his cannabis and cocaine use in his best-selling autobiography), he articulately and publicly stated his support for decriminalizing cannabis. However, when confronted by a conservative newspaper in 2008 after securing the nomination following a contentious primary campaign against Senator Hillary Clinton, Obama did a complete about-face, with his campaign flatly declaring: "Candidate Obama did not support decriminalization."

The second disappointment arises from the number of medical cannabis dispensaries that have been raided and



shuttered by his Department of Justice—more than 175 by the end of April.

Third, despite almost 30 years of litigation by NORML, *High Times* and other drug policy reform groups seeking to have the federal government reschedule cannabis under the Controlled Substances Act—supported by an unprecedented petition signed by numerous state governors asking the Obama Administration to recognize the use of cannabis for medical purposes—the DEA and the Office of National Drug Control Policy

continue to insist that cannabis has no medical value at all, and to oppose lowering pot to Schedule II (the category that cocaine currently enjoys).

On the other hand, former Massachusetts governor and businessman Mitt Romney has a far more concise and non-nuanced view regarding cannabis: As a Mormon (a religious group that traditionally doesn't consume *any* recreational drugs) as well as a social conservative, he opposes *any* use of it—even when it comes to medical use approved by a physician.

Since NORML is a nonpartisan organization that only wants the best for cannabis consumers and cultivators, it's not in the business of endorsing presidential candidates. But the cannabis community is confronted with a true Hobson's choice in 2012: Does it vote for a hypocritical flip-flopper like Barack Obama, or a strident prohibitionist like Mitt Romney? Of course, voting third party is always a possibility—both the Libertarians and the Greens *support* legalizing cannabis—but realistically, there's little chance of either party's candidate winning.

Which means that cannabis consumers might actually be easy to spot at the polling booths this November: We'll be the ones holding our noses. ✨

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

### Activism Never Sleeps

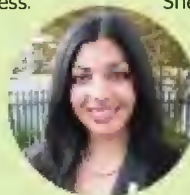
Shaleen Title's boundless energy serves as an inspiration for others.

Shaleen Title has been involved with drug policy reform efforts since she co-founded the Students for Sensible Drug Policy chapter at the University of Illinois in 2002.

"Although I don't use marijuana myself," she says, "I became hooked on policy reform at a young age when SSDP taught me how to become

engaged in the political process."

For three years, Title served as the speakers' bureau director for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), overseeing the activities of a global network of law enforcement officials who support a legal and regulated model for controlling drugs. With LEAP, she also coordinated the all-volunteer law enforcement support for California's Proposition 19, as well as multiple initiatives in other states.



She co-authored LEAP's report, "Ending the Drug War: A Dream Deferred," which demonstrated how the Obama Administration was ramping up the War on Drugs.

Title also serves as co-chair of the National Lawyers Guild's drug policy committee and was the 2010 recipient of the Hunter S. Thompson Young Attorney Award. In 2012, she received the SSDP Outstanding Alumni Award for her efforts to increase diversity

within the drug policy reform movement. "It's especially important for women to stand up and send a message to children that we love and care about them—to say: 'Even if you do make a mistake, we're not going to ostracize you and keep you out of mainstream society,'" she says.

Always staying active, Shaleen currently works for Vicente Sederberg, a law firm that specializes in medical marijuana cases, as well as the 2012 Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol.





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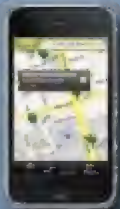
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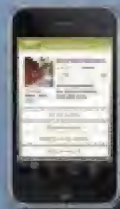
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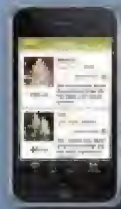
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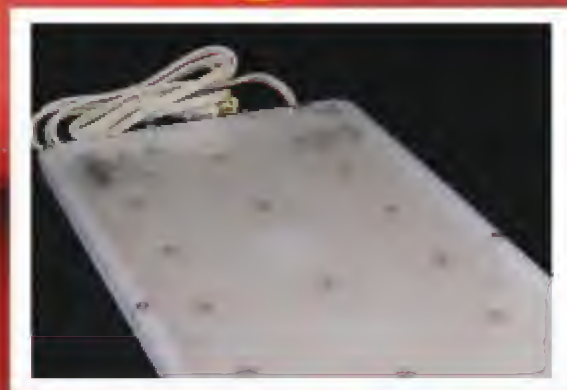
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Capacity: 6 Plants  
Dimensions: 24" T (Upgradeable to 36" T) x 16" W x 9.5" D

**Price: \$395**



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**Grows 6 Pounds of Dried Plant Matter Per Year.**  
Includes everything you need including 150w HPS/MH lighting system, a year supply of nutrients, warranty, and free tech support. All you need is water and plants! This system uses Superponics technology.

Capacity: 8 Plants  
Dimensions: 61"H x 14"W x 24"D

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Capacity: 8 Plants  
Dimensions: 41" T X 28" W X 18" D

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**CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH**


**Stay Glassy**

 Check out this extreme microscopic view of my Lemon Skunk (x200). *Adam Z*



**HARVEST OF THE MONTH**

**Jar Jar Blings**

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**GARDEN OF THE MONTH**


**Stacked and Compact**

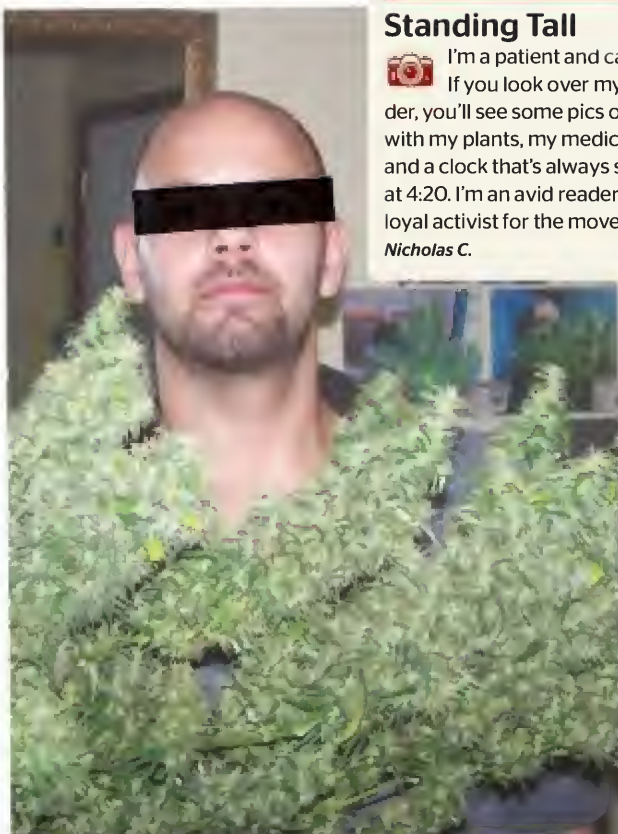
 These are my plants in various stages of growth in my perpetual harvest closet. *Cell Toolz*



**GROWER OF THE MONTH**


**Standing Tall**

 I'm a patient and caregiver. If you look over my shoulder, you'll see some pics of me with my plants, my medical cards and a clock that's always stopped at 4:20. I'm an avid reader and a loyal activist for the movement. *Nicholas C.*



**NUG OF THE MONTH**

**Obama Kush**

 I grow in soil using Sunshine Mix and coco plus Azos, Mykos, etc. *Cell Toolz*

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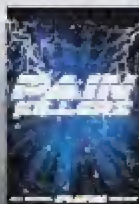
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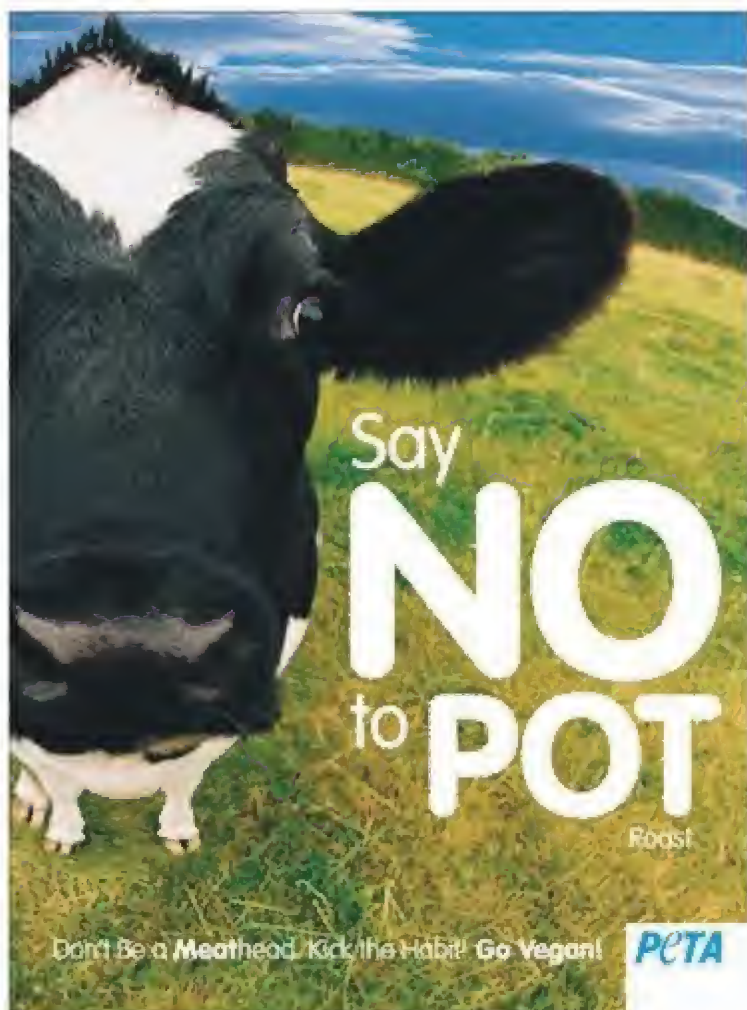


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## A Fresh Look at LEDs

Some marijuana gardeners have been dismissive of LEDs and their utility, but recent advances have brightened the prospects for success using them in an indoor grow op, for both small- and large-scale growers alike.

### ▶ Electrify Your Plants

Scientists have been experimenting with the electrical stimulation of plants for at least 100 years. Lately, two researchers have successfully implemented this technology in the garden—and now you can, too!

### ▶ Small-Scale Cultivation

Short on garden space? Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko reveals a range of tips and tricks for growing plenty of pot in limited spaces like closets, tents, cabinets and growboxes.

### ▶ To Dab or Not to Dab?

The popularity—and controversy—surrounding butane hash oil continues to grow in the cannabis community. Is dabbing dangerous? Senior editor Bobby Black consults some of the industry's top experts to explore the pros, cons and possible perils of BHO.

### ▶ The High Pitch

*They Call Me Oil Can* is the controversial autobiography of former Boston Red Sox pitcher Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd. The colorful hurler sits down for a candid discussion about racism and drug use in professional baseball.

### ▶ Ayahuasca on the Menu

Navigating a path through a phalanx of tourists and hustlers in Cusco, Peru, an American skeptic ingests ayahuasca, the legendary jungle vine, on a journey to true enlightenment.

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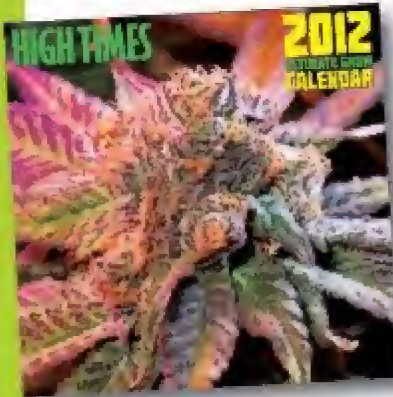
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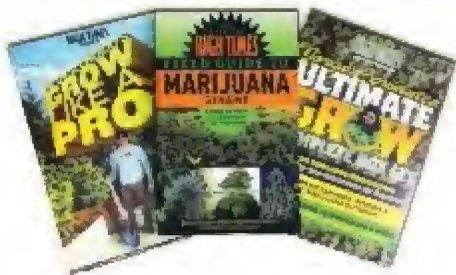
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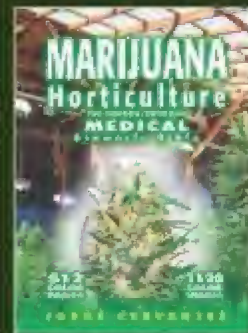


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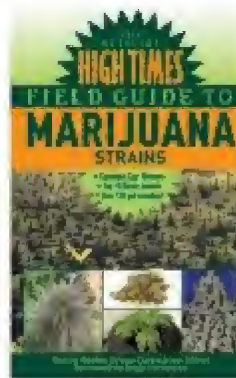


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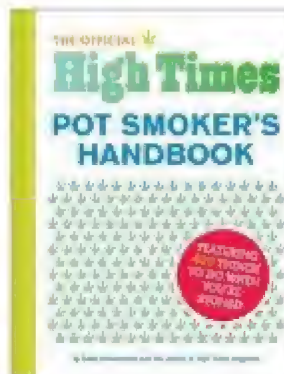
## High Times Books



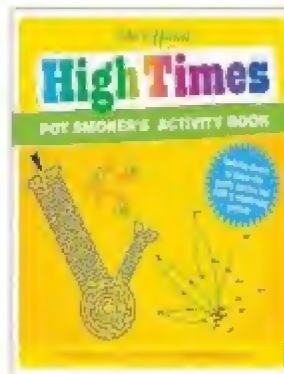
**The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains**  
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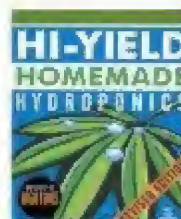
**Marijuanaland: Dispatches From An American War**  
By Jonah Raskin  
Part history, part counter-culture mythology, this informative and entertaining stoner memoir provides readers with a backstage pass to the world of cannabis. From the Emerald Triangle to Prop 19, Marijuanaland offers a compelling, eye-opening look at the war on drugs. **\$12.95**



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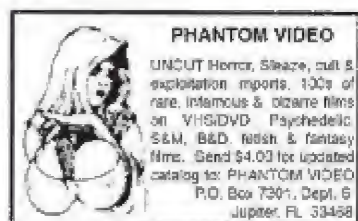
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The Talking DOG

**20** **NO HOPE WITHOUT SMOKE**  
WE DON'T GET LASH HERE, SO I USED THE MEXICAN BRICKWEED THAT'S ALL OVER TOWN. TWO STANDARD BIRTHDAY SLICES AND YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN HIGH

**21** **Bobby Black**  
space cake

**22** IT REALLY PUZZLED ME TO SEE MARIJUANA CONNECTED TO MARIJUANA, DOPE AND ALL THAT CRAP. IT'S A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN WHISKEY. IT'S AN OXYGEN, A FRIEND.

**23** Getting back to the GOIN' (exercise, SEX and certain foods release dopamine in the brain)

**24** If Mitt Romney becomes President, Mexico will have to put up a wall to keep me out!

**25** **WHY** USE UP THE FORESTS WHICH WERE CENTURIES IN THE MAKING AND THE MINES WHICH REQUIRED AGES TO LAY DOWN, IF WE CAN GET THE EQUIVALENT OF FOREST AND MINERAL PRODUCTS IN THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE HEMP FIELDS?  
- Henry Ford

**26** Hemp is of the first necessity to the wealth and protection of the country.  
- Thomas Jefferson

**27** **YALE**

**28** **HIGH! Get me HIGH!**

**29** **ALIEN BUD IS SUBLIME**  
Smoke

**30** "The illegality of cannabis is outrageous, an impediment to full utilization of a drug which helps produce the serenity and insight, sensitivity and fellowship so desperately needed in this increasingly mad and dangerous world."  
- Carl Sagan

**31** **LONG LIVE GONZO!**  
ALL THE FLORIDA CREW SAYS SO...RUSS, KRYONNE, LL, EL DINE, TREE, GALE, CRAZY CONSTE, WALKER, MOGGOT, WANDA, HOLLY AND ALL THE REST OF THE FLORIDA CREW!

**32** **IF U don't think**  
I have the right to smoke my way in the USA, then quit doing it and hang it, U can whack my shack, Jack!

**33** **THE CATCHER IN THE RYE**  
By J.D. Salinger

**34** **I STARTED OUT WITH NOTHING**  
(AND I STILL HAVE MOST OF IT)

**35** JUST BOTTLE IT! SIMULATED POT/SCENT, CONFUSE SCENT DOGS WITH SIMULATED POT SMELL. FLOOD THE POST OFFICE WITH SIMULATED SCENT, BOTTLE IT, SELL IT AT THE LIQUOR STORE.

**36** THERE'S NO TOP AUTHORITY SAYING WHAT MARIJUANA DOES TO YOU, I REALLY DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT IT. I TRIED IT ONCE BUT IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME!  
- John Wayne

**37** **BOTTOMS UP SALOON**  
LIQUOR IN THE FRONT POTTER IN THE BACK

**38** **THE GREAT... GENE KRUPA**  
SWING PREMIER BIG BAND ERA AND EASILY POT SMOKER. KISSIN FOR HIS WIFE RICHARDSON CRAY

**39** **Even if** one takes every reefer madness allegation of the prohibitionists at face value marijuana prohibition has done far more harm to far more people than marijuana ever could.  
- William F. Buckley, Jr.

**40** **STOP**  
Drunk van STOP signs...  
Hempsters wait for them to turn Green

What would you like to see on the Pot 40? Write your ideas on this ballot and mail to:

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Pot 40—16th Floor  
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# HIGH TIMES

*presents*

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EVER  
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- THE BIG - \$75
- BC SWEET TOOTH - \$75
- BC CHEESE - \$75
- 707 HEADBAND - \$75
- LEMON OG 18 - \$75
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- BLUE BUDDHA - \$75
- JACK HERER - \$75
- NORTHERN LIGHTS - \$75
- TRULY FRUITY - \$75
- BC KUSH - \$60
- BC HELL BUSH - \$60
- PURPLE BUDDHA - \$60



Award Winner  
All Female



# BCBUD

HIGHTIMES STRAIN OF THE YEAR -  
THE BIG

### INDOOR

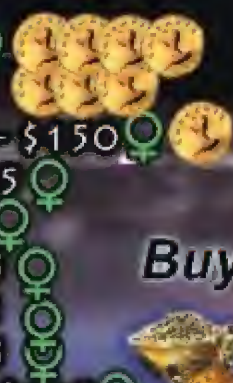
- AMNESIA HAZE - \$75
- BC CHRONIC - \$75
- UBC CHEMO - \$75
- WHITE WIDOW - \$75
- ALBINO RHINO - \$60
- BC BIG BUD - \$60
- BURMESE - \$60
- WILLIAMS WONDER - \$60
- INDOOR MIX - \$50

### OUTDOOR

- BC PINEWARP - \$75
- SWEET ISLAND SKUNK - \$60
- OUTDOOR MIX - \$50
- TEXADA TIMEWARP - \$75

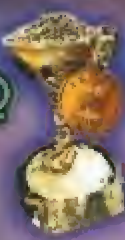
### FEMINIZED

- BC GOD BUD - \$150
- THE PURPS - \$150
- ORIGINAL BLUEBERRY - \$150
- BC HASH PLANT - \$125
- JACK HERER - \$125
- SKUNK #1 X NL - \$125
- SWEET DREAMS - \$125
- CINDERELLA 99 - \$125
- STRAWBERRY COUGH - \$125



### AUTO FLOWERING

- LOWRYDER #2 - \$90
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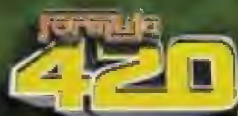
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